

MANORAMA

TELL ME WHY

No:80



SHOWCASING
WILDLIFE
IN ACTION!



INDIA'S
NATIONAL PARKS



Elephant and her calves in Kaziranga National Park

From the house of
MAGIC POT, THE WEEK,
MANORAMA YEARBOOK, VANITHA &
THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY

MANORAMA
TELL ME WHY

May 2013 • Volume: 7 • No: 5



Nature for the Future

National parks are dedicated to conserving a nation's unique flora and fauna, and distinct scenic and wildlife heritage for future generations. These parks are rich in plant and animal species, thriving in their indigenous natural environment and beauty.

Each country has its own national parks which protect a number of species. Till 1970, India had only five national parks. However, new laws were passed in the 1970s and 1980s to protect wildlife and the environment. As a result, many more national parks were established.

By 2012, there were 103 national parks in India. This number will definitely increase, as plans are afoot to set up a total of 166 national parks. This issue of Tell Me Why unfolds for you a stunning panorama of the Wonders of Wild India.

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M.M. Publications Ltd.,

P.B. No. 226, Kottayam, Kerala, India.
Pin - 686 001. Phone: 0481 - 2563721 - 22, 23
Fax: ++91- 481 - 2564393
E mail: subscription@mmp.in
childrensdivision@mmp.in

NEW DELHI: Malayala Manorama Co. Ltd.,
Andhra Vanitha Mandali Building,
2, Azad Bhavan Road, Indraprastha Estate,
New Delhi - 110 002.
Phone: 011- 23379718, 23379719, 23379720

MUMBAI: Malayala Manorama,
A- 404 Marathon Innova, A Wing 4th Floor,
Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013.
Phone: 022 - 39495969, 24900844, 24901331

KOLKATA: Malayala Manorama,
14 Parasar Road, Near Lake Market,
Kolkata - 700 029.
Phone: 033 - 24198233, 24198048

PATNA: Malayala Manorama,
608, Jagat Trade Centre, Frazar Road,
Patna - 800 001. Phone: 0612 - 2233809

JAIPUR: Malayala Manorama,
C/o Royal business Centre, Usha Plaza, Near
Jaipur Tower, M.I. Road, Jaipur - 302 001.
Phone: 0141 - 2368360, Mob: 94616 28972

HYDERABAD: Malayala Manorama,
C/o Dr. B.C. Mathur, 8-2- 629/1/B, Road
No.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034.
Phone: 040 - 23314168, 23324692

BENGALURU: Malayala Manorama,
No. 132, Kantha Court, 3rd Floor,
Lal Baugh Road, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Phone: 22247735 / 36

CHENNAI: Malayala Manorama,
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Chennai-600 031. Phone: 044 - 43181405.

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Phone: 2241911 / 2245470

LUCKNOW: Malayala Manorama,
B-1657, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226 016.
Phone: 0522 - 2341576

CHANDIGARH: Malayala Manorama,
H No. 2252, Ground Floor Annexe, Sector
21- C, Chandigarh -160 022.
Phone: 0172 - 2724699 Mob: 09417310727

BHOPAL: Malayala Manorama,
Plot No.161, Gopal Bhawan, Zone 1,
M.P. Nagar, Bhopal. Phone: 0755 - 2557937

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:
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Thampanoor East, Thiruvananthapuram-
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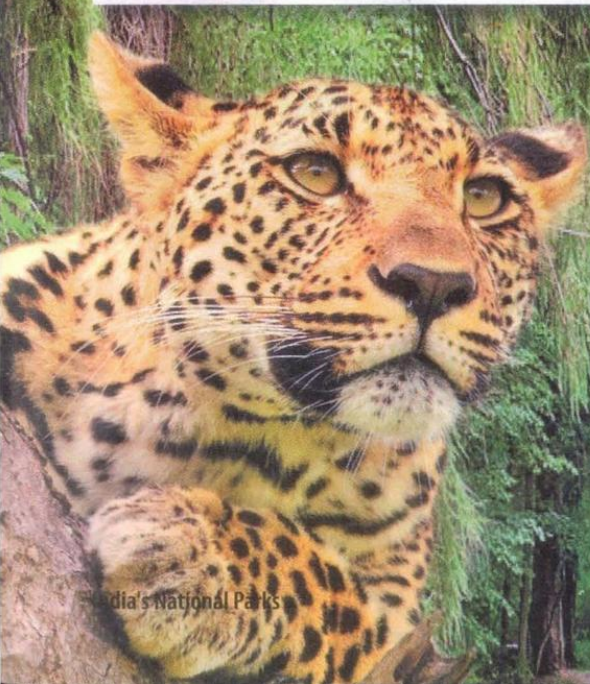
INDIA'S NATIONAL PARKS

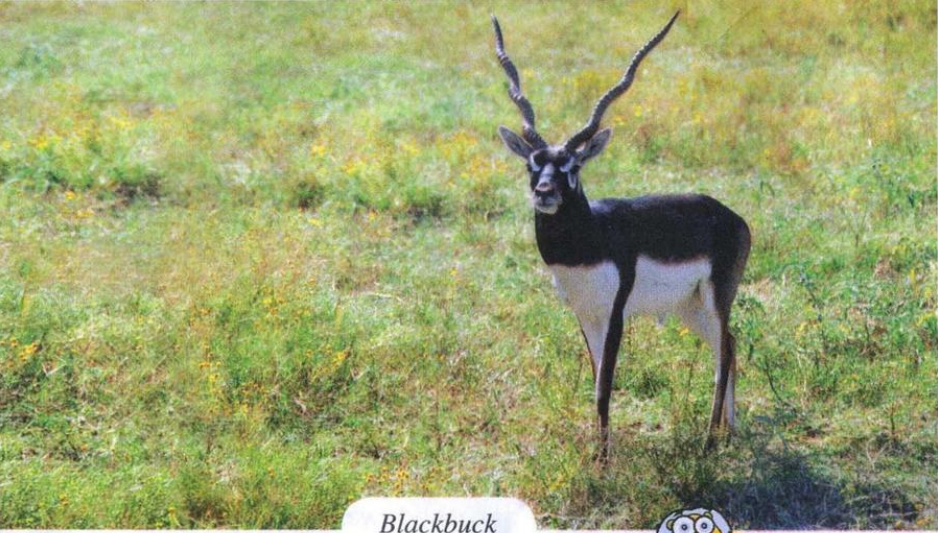


India's first national
park was established in
1936. It was called the
Hailey National Park,
but has now been
renamed Jim Corbett
National Park.

What are national parks?

If you have visited a national park, you will know that it is a place where Nature has been left undisturbed, and you can see animals in their natural surroundings. In other words, it is a park that preserves or conserves Nature for future generations to study and enjoy. Every country in the world has its own national parks, and there is an international organization, the IUCN- International Union for the Conservation of Nature- that is recognized as a regulatory body for these parks. According to the IUCN there are more than 6500 national parks in the world today. The first national park to be established was the Yellowstone National Park in the USA. It was declared a national park in 1872. The largest national park in the world is the Northeast Greenland National Park.





Blackbuck

Why is the Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park an interesting place?

The Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park lies on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Since it was established in 1975, the year of the 2500th birth anniversary of the great Jain saint Mahavir, it was named after him. It became a National Park in 1994.

The park is famed as the preserve of the endangered blackbuck, the state animal of Andhra Pradesh. There are also chitals and herds of wild boar. Partridges, quails, peacocks, doves, pond herons, egrets, kingfishers and cormorants are found here, as well as birds of prey like kites and vultures. If you are lucky, you may even catch sight of the short-toed eagle- a very rare bird.



National Aquatic Animal

The Gangetic Dolphin has been declared the national aquatic animal of India. This is an important step in the conservation and preservation of this endangered animal, which is unique to India.

Why is the Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park unique?

The Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park or KBR Park, as it is popularly known, is named after a former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. It is located in the Jubilee Hills, in the heart of Hyderabad city. The park has over 600 species of plants and trees. As far as wildlife is concerned, the park is home to approximately 113 species of birds, 20 species of reptiles, 20 species of mammals, 15 species of butterflies, and a wide variety of invertebrates as well as palm civets and small jungle cats.

The park is unique in that, in addition to its magnificent flora and fauna, it also has awe-inspiring historic structures within its boundaries like the Chitan Palace of the former Nizam of Hyderabad established as a National Park in 1998 to safeguard the biodiversity, and it is like a breath of fresh air amidst the noise and pollution of the city.

Jungle Cat



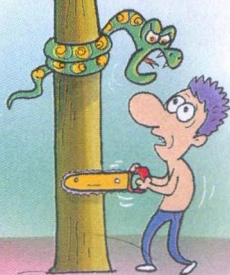


Why is the Mrugavani National Park a popular tourist destination?

Mrugavani National Park is located about 25 kilometres from Hyderabad, and was declared as a National Park in 1978. The park is covered with teak, sandalwood and bamboo, as well as many varieties of shrubs and herbs, woodlands and grasslands. It is home to animals like the Indian hare, forest cat, civet, Indian rat snake, Russell's viper and chital. There are over 100 species of birds, including warblers, peacocks, grey partridge, quail, lapwings and flower peckers, as well as myriads of butterflies. With its 600 different types of plant life, amazing wildlife, and wide range of nature friendly activities, Mrugavani National Park has become a favourite destination of both domestic as well as international tourists.

Chitals

You fool;
don't you know
this is a National
Park?





Mount Harriet National Park

The Mount Harriet National Park in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is named after Mount Harriet, the highest peak in the archipelago. The peak, in turn, is named after Harriet Tytler, who is remembered for her notes at the time of the revolt of 1857.

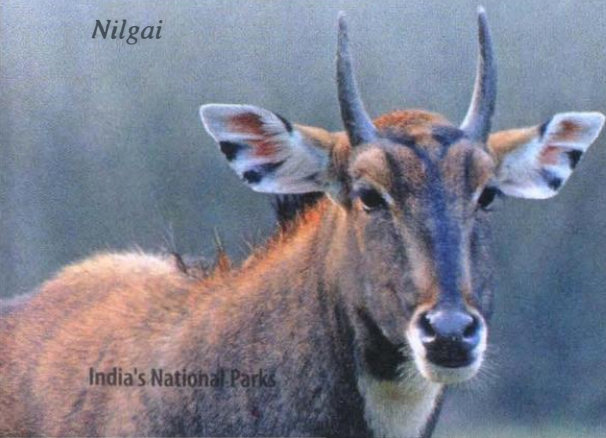
Why is the Sri Venkateswara National Park called by this name?

The Sri Venkateswara National Park is located in the Chittoor and Cuddapah districts of Andhra Pradesh. It covers an area of 353.62 sq km of rugged hilly terrain, and abounds in deep gorges, steep slopes, lofty plateaus, green valleys and breathtaking waterfalls.

The park is famous for over 1500 plant species, and also for its rare species of wildlife. These include the slender lorises, the golden gecko, and flying lizards. There are also many mammals like the nilgai, wild boar, the occasional leopard and hyena. Nilgai is the largest Asian antelope.

For bird-watchers, there are over 100 species of birds to be seen. The park, which was notified as a National Park in 1998, is just 10 km from Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, and is named after the Lord.

Nilgai





Nicobar Pigeon

Walk & Watch

If you are walking around the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, it will take up to two hours to cover the entire area. But with over 100 species of migratory birds to look out for, time will just fly!

Where is Campbell Bay National Park?

The Campbell Bay National Park is on the Great Nicobar Island, the largest of the Nicobar Islands. These islands are located in the Indian Ocean. Campbell Bay was established as a National Park in 1996, and forms a part of what is known as the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

The park covers an area of 426.23 sq km of tropical evergreen forest, abounding in orchids and tree ferns. The orchids are truly spectacular, and in summer, when all the flowers are in full bloom, the park is a breathtaking sight. The animals inhabiting this park include the crab-eating macaque, the megapode, the giant robber crab and the Nicobar pigeon. There are also myriad species of birds that you can watch from specially built watchtowers.



Why is the Galathea National Park special?

The Galathea National Park is in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Located on Great Nicobar Island, it occupies an area of 110 sq km.

This park is home to many rare species of plants and animals that are found only here, because of the relative geographical isolation of this region.

The park is especially famous for the presence of the giant leatherback turtle, an endangered species. Other animals found here include, the water monitor lizard, the reticulated python, the endangered Nicobar tree shrew, wild pigs, robber crabs, and the Malayan box turtle. The wildlife also includes the Nicobar scrub-fowl, the edible nest swiftlet, the Nicobar long-tailed macaque, and saltwater crocodile. The Galathea National Park is also a great place for enthusiastic bird-watchers, and a holiday here is truly a unique experience.

Long-tailed Macaque



Why is the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park linked with eco-tourism?

*An Island
in the
Mahatma
Gandhi
Marine
National
Park*

The Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is in the Wandoor region of South Andaman. The park covers an area of 281.5 sq km, and is made up of a group of 15 islands and open sea creeks. This was declared as a National Park in 1999.

Most of the park area is dotted with islands and islets covered with mangroves or tropical forests, along with open rock-faces, and shallow beaches. The marine wonders include a variety of coral reefs, myriad fish in all sizes and colours, mollusks, shell fish, star-fish, turtles, and saltwater crocodiles.

This park is a major nesting ground for sea turtles, who come there in hundreds every year to lay their eggs. This national park has many excellent locations for snorkelling and scuba-diving, and is a hot-spot for eco-tourism.



Middle Button Island National Park

Middle Button Island Park is also in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is near Port Blair, and is famous for its spotted deer, along with many other species of wildlife, as well as for its breath taking beauty.

Why is the North Button Island National Park an ideal holiday spot?

The North Button Island National Park covers 0.44 sq km of marine area in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, off the east coast of India. It is a wonderful place for scuba diving and snorkelling as the bottom of the sea is made up mainly of coral covered rocks interspersed with patches of sand. This is the home of the dugong, dolphins, blue whale, water monitor lizard, and other forms of marine life. Here, you will also find humpback snappers, giant groupers, and schools of spiny foot and unicorn fish. Boulder corals, stag horns, and finger corals are some of the sights to be seen on the reef flats. The area receives heavy rainfall from June to October every year, and so, the best time to visit the North Button Island National Park is from December to April.

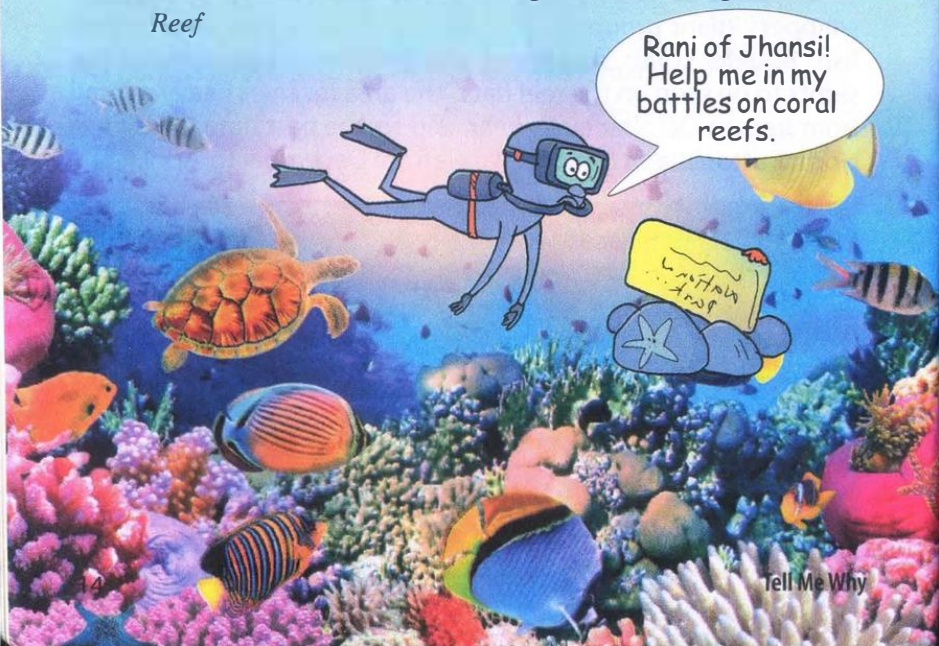
Dugong

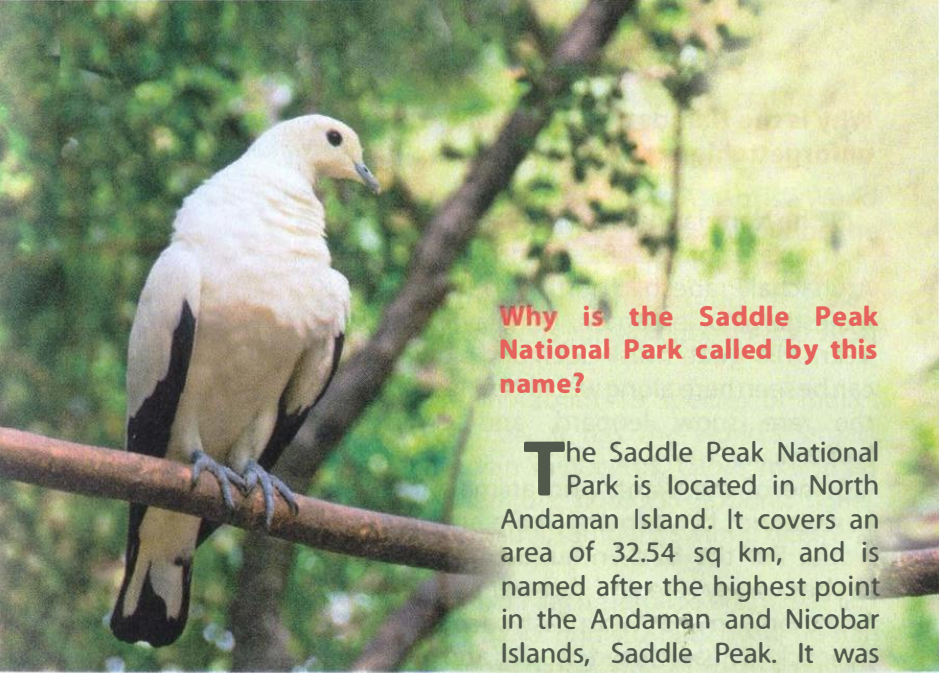


Why is the Rani Jhansi Marine National Park called the eco-tourism hub of India?

The Rani Jhansi Marine National Park is the eco-tourism hub of India. It is located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on the picturesque Ritchie's Archipelago, and is spread out over three islands. It is about 40 km from Baratang Island, and covers a total area of about 256.14 sq km. From the eco-tourism point of view, Baratang provides an excellent opportunity to view a variety of habitats, from mangroves to littoral forests, to mud volcanoes, as well as natural limestone caves, marine life, and birdlife. The plant life and wildlife found here include the terrestrial forests, mangroves, coral reefs, crocodiles, dugongs and birds. Fruit-eating bats are also found here. The islands surrounding this National Park offer great locations for scuba-diving and snorkelling.

Coral Reef





Why is the Saddle Peak National Park called by this name?

The Saddle Peak National Park is located in North Andaman Island. It covers an area of 32.54 sq km, and is named after the highest point in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Saddle Peak. It was declared as a national park in the year 1996.

The climate here is humid, warm, and wet, and the park abounds in luxuriant, lush green tropical rainforests.

A unique feature of this park is the stunted evergreen vegetation surrounding the peak, which is 732 metres high. The main animal species in the park comprises Andaman wild pigs, water monitor lizard, and Salt Water Crocodile. The important birds found here are the Andaman hill mynah and imperial pigeon.

Imperial Pigeon

South Button Island National Park

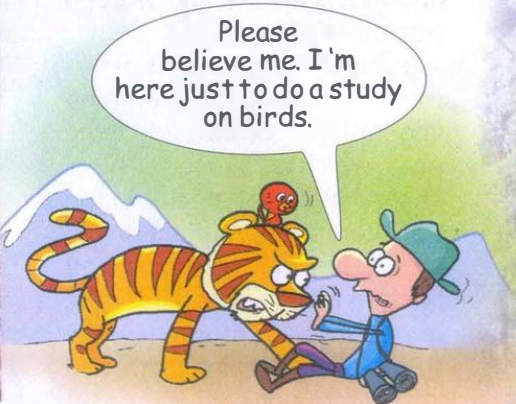
The South Button Island National Park in the Andaman and Nicobar islands is famed for its shallow water coral reefs, which makes it a popular site for scuba-diving. It is also home to the dugong and water monitor lizard. It was declared as a national park in the year 1996.

Why is the Namdapha National Park an unforgettable experience?

*Namdapha
National Park*

The Namdapha National Park covering an area of 1807.82 sq km, is located in Arunachal Pradesh in north-east India. The majestic gaur, elephant, Himalayan black bear, wild goat, musk deer, and slow loris can be seen here along with tigers, leopards, the rare snow leopard, and clouded leopard.

Some of the plants and animals found here cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. For the bird-enthusiast, the forest shelters many rare and threatened species found only in the North East, such as grey peacock-pheasant, red headed and Ward's trogons, wedge-billed wren babbler, snowy throated babbler, hill partridges, the beautiful nuthatch, and five different species of the majestic hornbill.



Please
believe me. I'm
here just to do a study
on birds.

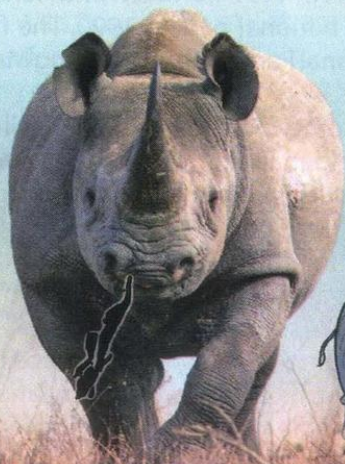
Which National Park in India is associated with the one-horned Indian rhinoceros?

The Kaziranga National Park in Assam is a World Heritage Site, and the natural home of the famous one-horned Indian rhinoceros. Here you will find thick forests, elephant grass, marshes, shallow pools, and reeds spread out over 858.98 sq km.

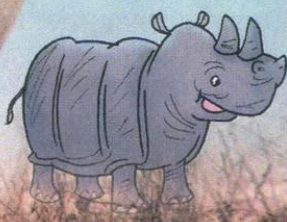
The park contains about 15 species of India's threatened mammals. It has the world's largest population of Indian rhinoceros. Other mammals include capped langurs, hoolock gibbons, tigers, Ganges dolphins, gaurs, sambars, swamp deer, and the Indian muntjac.

Kaziranga National Park is perhaps one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence- and as such, it is one of India's natural treasures.

*Indian
Rhinoceros*



Please pull out one of my horns! I have to visit Kaziranga next week.





Great Hornbill

Why is the Manas National Park India's pride?

The Manas National Park, located in the foothills of the Himalayas in Western Assam, was declared a tiger reserve in 1974, and a World Heritage Site in 1985, and a national park in 1990. The focal point of Manas National Park is the enchanting Manas River.

The sanctuary is home to a great variety of wildlife that includes the golden langur, hispid hare, pygmy hog, capped langur, Indian one-horned rhinoceros, elephant, gaur, and hog deer. It is one of the tiger reserve sanctuaries in India. Manas is known for its project tigers, rhinos and elephants, and is one of the two tiger projects in Assam. The diverse habitat of Manas is an ideal home for a variety of specialized birds too. The park boasts of the largest population of the endangered Bengal florican in the world, and is also a great place to see the great hornbill.



Where is the Nameri National Park?

The Nameri National Park, in Assam, is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas and covers an area of 200 sq km. The Park is a Tiger Reserve and here you will find Sambar, Barking deer, Hog Deer, Wild Boar and Gaur as well as Tigers, Elephants, Leopard, Clouded Leopards and Sloth Bears. The Capped Langur and Jackal along with Indian Bison, Pangolin, Indian Wild Dog and Civet Cat, are amongst the species found in the park.

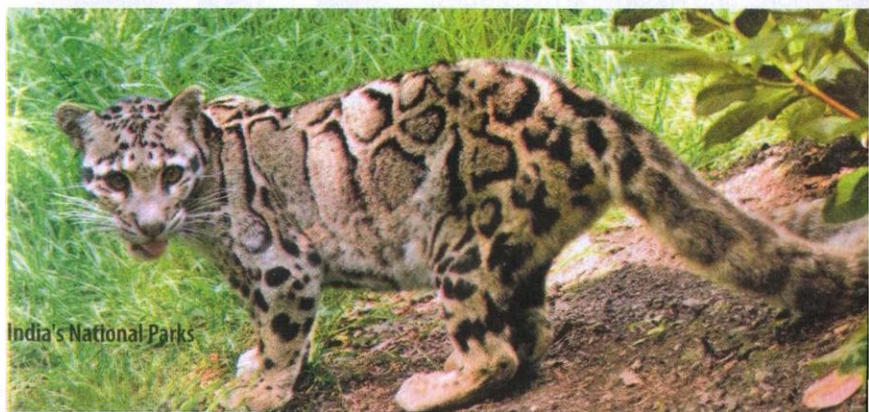
Many rare birds have also been spotted here, including the White Billed Wood Duck and four species of Hornbill.



Lion-tailed Macaque

The lion-tailed macaque is an endangered species of monkey found only in pockets of evergreen forests in south-west India.

Clouded Leopard



Why does the Dibru- Saikhowa National Park have a special place in Assam?

The Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam, and sprawls over 340 sq km. It was formed by merging the two reserve forests of Dibru and Saikhowa, and was declared a national park in 1999.

Dibru-Saikhowa is among the most vibrant wilderness on Earth, and is also distinct for its pristine scenic beauty. Situated in the flood plane of the Brahmaputra, Dibru-Saikhowa is a safe haven for many endangered species of wild life, including over 300 species of birds, both endangered and migratory.

Over 25 species of mammals have been recorded including tigers, elephants, leopards, jungle cats, bears, small Indian civets, squirrels, Gangetic dolphins, slow loris, and Assamese macaques.

The main attractions, however, are the white winged wood duck and the brightly coloured wild horses, known as feral horses.



Mouling National Park

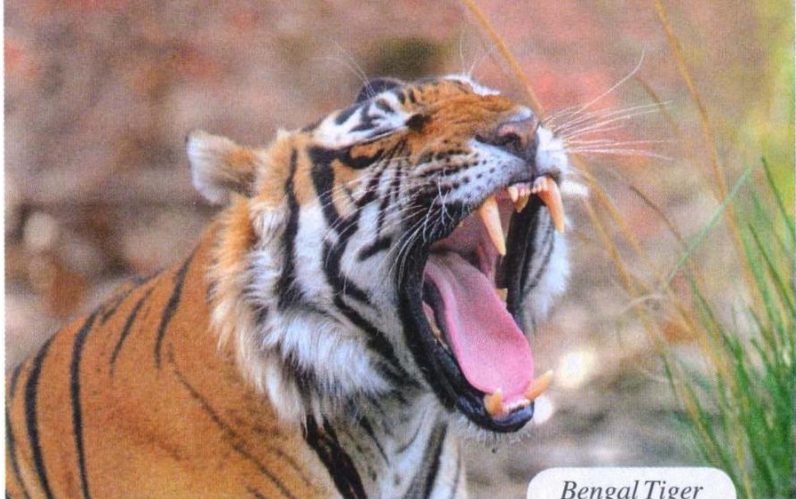
The Mouling

National Park is in Arunachal Pradesh. It is named after the highest peak in the state, Mouling.

'Mouling' means 'red poison,' and refers to the red latex from a tree which is found only in this area. The park has been recognized as one of the 18 biodiversity hotspots of the world.

Elephant





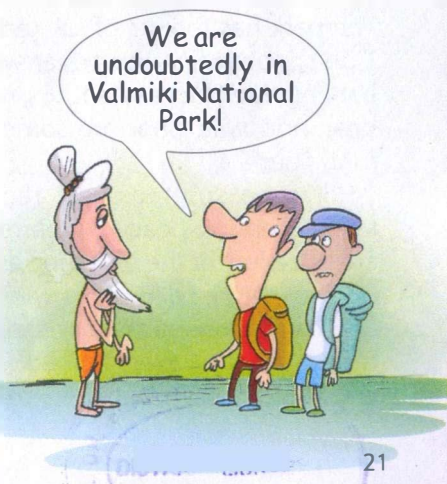
Bengal Tiger

Why is the Valmiki National Park important?

The Valmiki National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the state of Bihar. As many as 53 species of mammals and 240 species of birds have made the park their home. Amongst the many animals that can be spotted in the national park are wolves, deer, sloth bears, and reptiles like pythons, leopards, nilgai, hyenas, jungle cats, Indian bison, and rhinoceros.

However, the main attraction of the park is the Bengal tiger, and most visitors travel to the place to catch a glimpse of this elusive and endangered animal.

The place has a major historical attraction-the Valmiki Ashram- which is located at a distance of about 7 km from Valmikinagar. Although the ashram itself is in Nepal, it can be approached only from Valmiki Nagar in India.





Why is the Kanger Valley Park a fascinating place?

Chitals

The Kanger Valley National Park is spread out over 200 sq km of picturesquely hilly terrain in Chhattisgarh State.

The beautiful park derives its name from the Kanger River, which flows throughout its length. The Kanger Valley attained the status of a national park in 1982. The park has forests of sal, teak and bamboo trees. Tigers, leopards, mouse deer, wild cat, chital, sambar, barking deer, jackals, langurs, rhesus macaque, sloth bear, and wild boar are some of the wild animals found here.

Hill myna, spotted owlet, red jungle fowls, racket-tailed drongos, peacocks, parrots and steppe eagles are just a few of the bird species that make the park a fascinating place. Besides wildlife and plants, there are many tourist attractions inside the park such as the Kutamsar Caves, Kailash Caves, Dandak Caves and Tirathgarh Waterfalls.

Why is the Indravati National Park famous?

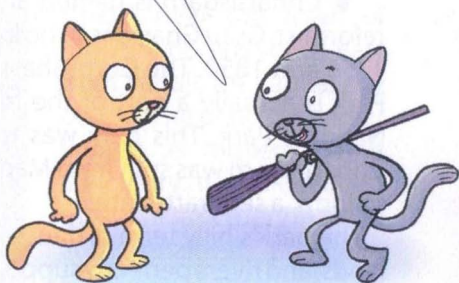
The Indravati National Park is famous for its tiger reserve. In fact, it is the only tiger reserve in the state of Chhattisgarh. The park gets its name from the Indravati River, which flows through the park, from east to west.

The park boasts of exotic varieties of tropical flowers, especially orchids. The grasslands abound in wild buffaloes, barking deer and herds of nilgais. The wildlife also includes barasinghas, gaurs, sambars, wild dogs, sloth bear, hyenas and many other species. However, the Indravati National Park is most famous for the reptiles found here. One can see crocodiles basking in the sun, as well as Indian chameleons, cobras and Indian rock pythons.

The Park also has an interesting variety of bird life that includes the hill myna, cattle egret, parrots, bulbul, koels, fly catchers, and weaver birds.

Sambar

I'm off to
Kanger Valley Park
to hunt mouse
deer.



How did the Guru Ghasidas National Park get its name?

The Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh is named after a famous reformist, Guru Ghasidas, who lived between 1756 and 1850. The Guru Ghasidas National Park is actually a part of the former Sanjay National Park. This park was formed when Chhattisgarh was split from Madhya Pradesh to form a separate state.

The park's hilly terrain, dense forest, grasslands, and rivers perfectly support the wildlife population of the region. Tigers, leopards, chital, nilgai, chinkara, jackals, sambar, four-horned antelopes, jungle cat, barking deer, porcupine, monkey, bison, striped hyena, sloth bear and wild dogs are some of the common species found in this region. The best time to visit this place is from November to June.

Striped Hyena



Tiger Reserve

The Valmiki National Park covers an area of 335.65 sq km. The Valmiki Tiger Reserve was established in 1994. It is the second tiger reserve in Bihar, and the eighteenth in India.



Bonnet Macaque with its baby

Which national park is located in Goa?

Goa's Mollem National Park is in the Western Ghats, near the town of Mollem, 60 km south-east from Panaji, the capital city of Goa. The park was earlier known as Mollem Game Sanctuary. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1969, and renamed Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary. The thick jungles of the park are home to a variety of wildlife that includes the barking deer, bengal tiger, leopard, bonnet macaque, and the Malabar giant squirrel.

The park is also famous for the 12th century Tambdi Surla temple, Devil's Canyon, Sunset Point, and Tambdi Water Falls.



Orang National Park

The Orang National Park is the oldest game reserve in the state of Assam. It lies on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River, and covers an area of 78.81 sq km.

Why is the Gir Forest National Park important to Asiatic lions?

The Gir Forest National Park in Gujarat was established in 1975. It covers an area of about 258.71 sq km, and is the sole home of the pure Asiatic lions.

The forest and the lions in it were declared as 'protected' in the early 1900's by the nawab of the princely state of Junagadh. This was an important step in the conservation of the lions whose population had plummeted to only fifteen, because they were hunted as trophies. Today, the sanctuary is internationally acclaimed for successfully saving this precious species from the brink of extinction.

Grrr, I'm now in Gir. This is a nice place indeed!



The sanctuary is also famous for its remarkable bird population. In addition to the lions, the Gir Forest supports a rich biodiversity comprising 32 species of mammals, 26 species of reptiles. It also has the distinction of being home to the largest leopard populations of India.

Lion in Gir Forest National Park





Blackbuck

How did the Velavadar Blackbuck National Park get its name?

This national park in Gujarat gets its name from the fact that it is meant primarily to be a sanctuary for blackbucks. This is a land of wide-spread golden grasslands, where spiral-horned antelope or the blackbucks can be seen bounding up out of the grasses.

Close to the coast, there are wetlands full of birds. Pelicans, flamingos, ducks, waders, coots, white storks, painted storks, and different species of cranes make the park a treat for birdwatchers.

Thousands of harriers from Europe stay here during winter, and one of the fifty rarest birds in the world, the lesser florican, is also a regular visitor.



Animal Population

The Dibru Saikhowa National Park has a staggering population of animals- over 3 species of amphibians, 22 species of reptiles, 25 species of birds, 25 species of mammals, and 62 species of fish! Is it any wonder that it has been declared a biosphere reserve?

Why is Gulf of Kutch Marine Park unique?

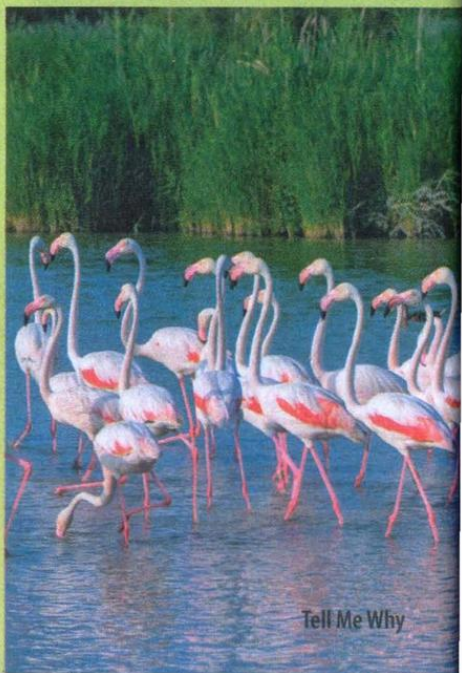
India's first marine wildlife sanctuary and first marine national park were created in the Gulf of Kutch in 1980 and 1982, respectively. The sanctuary covers 458 sq km, of which the park covers 162.89 sq km. It is an archipelago of 42 tropical islands that lie along the northern coast of Jamnagar district and the southern coast of Kutch.

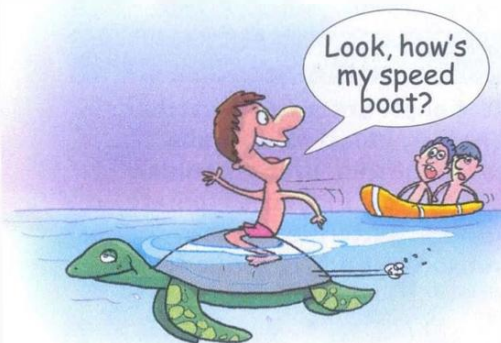
The sanctuary is in the intertidal zone- this is the area between the lowest and highest tide levels, which means that it lies below water in high tide, and is exposed during low tide. This unique feature gives the visitor a chance to observe the richest diversity of marine habitats in the country, including saline grasslands, marshy areas, rocky shores, mudflats, creeks, estuaries, sandy strands, coral reefs, and mangroves.

The mangrove trees can be identified by their peculiar roots,

Why is the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary and National Park a 'must-see' spot for bird lovers?

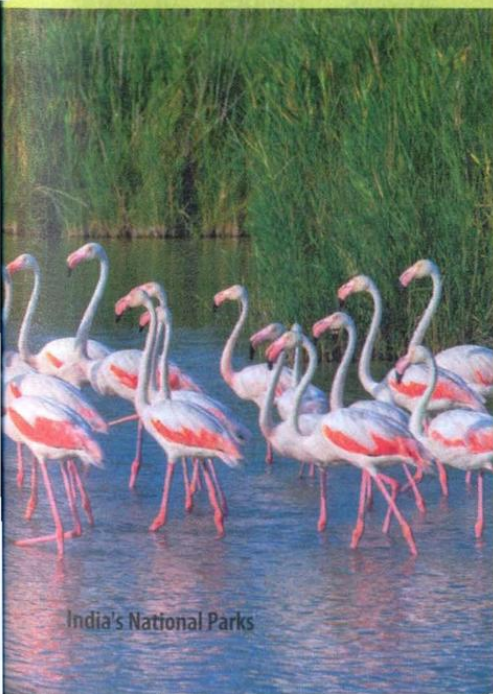
The Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary and National Park in Haryana is a popular tourist destination, especially in winter when migratory birds from all over the world flock here. Situated conveniently close to New Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Noida, the park covers an area of 1.43 sq km. The star attractions are the hundreds of





which reach up through the mud and out of the water. They are the breeding grounds for colonies of near-threatened species of birds such as painted stork, darter, and black-necked Ibis.

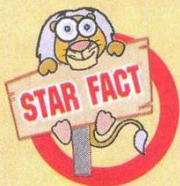
Some of the finest coral reef fringe islands are found here too. These colourful rock-like formations provide shelter and safe breeding grounds for various tiny marine species. In short, the Gulf of Kutch Marine Park is a treasure trove of marine life that affords the visitor a unique and thrilling experience.



different migratory birds, which fly in from Russia, Turkey, and East European countries, every year during winter. These include the Siberian crane, greater flamingo, ruff, northern pintail, yellow wagtail, white wagtail, rosy pelican, spotted redshank, and long-billed pipit.

In summer about 11 species of migratory birds such as Asian Koel, comb duck, and cuckoos can be seen.

Greater Flamingos



Birds in Mollem

Mollem National Park is a bird-watcher's dream. The fairy bluebird, wagtails, three-toed kingfisher, drongo, golden oriole and the great Indian hornbill are some of the species found here. Butterflies of many species like blue mormon, and crimson rose add to the beauty of the park.

Leopard



Why is the Kalesar National Park and Sanctuary called by this name?

The Kalesar National Park lies in the foothills of the Shivalik Ranges of the Himalayas, along the Yamuna River in the Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana. Leopards, ghoral, barking deer, sambar, chital are some of the animals that can be seen here.

The park is also home to the red jungle fowl. Other species of birds that can be spotted here are the grey hooded warbler, red billed blue magpie, crested serpent eagle, grey capped pygmy woodpecker and blue bearded bee eater. The park is named after a Shiva temple located in the protected area.



Snow Leopard

Why is The Great Himalayan National Park a nature lover's paradise?

The Himalayas are the largest, tallest, and geologically youngest mountains on our planet. They are also one of the most fragile mountain regions of the world, and their unique ecological features led to the creation of the Great Himalayan National Park or GHNP in the Kullu district of India's mountain state of Himachal Pradesh.

Vast areas of virgin conifer forests, alpine pastures, and glaciers cap this park which has a wide variety of wildlife. These



include the Himalayan tahr, the Himalayan musk deer, and snow leopard.

It also has more than 200 species of birds. The park is well known as the most important locality in India for the endangered western tragopan.

Raptors are also a prominent feature of the park, with lammergeiers, Himalayan griffon vultures, and golden eagles being seen regularly.

No doubt, this horn has made you an endangered one!

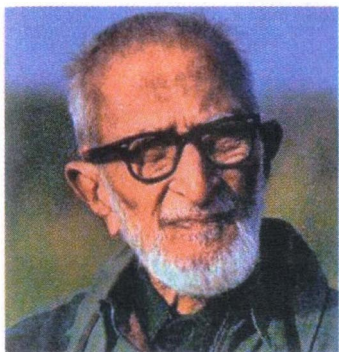
Which are the endangered animals found in the Pin Valley National Park?

The Pin Valley National Park is in the cold desert region of Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. This valley is the

Bharal



Tell Me Why



Salim Ali

natural habitat of a number of endangered animals including the Himalayan ibex, snow leopard, bharal, woolly hare, Tibetan wolf and snow cock.

In summer, rare birds like the Himalayan snowcock, chukar, snow partridge and snow finch flourish in the area.

This is the time when wild roses with their gorgeous pink blooms add brilliant splashes of colour that form a striking contrast to the arid landscape.

The best time to visit the Pin Valley is during summer, between the months of June to October.

How did the Salim Ali National Park get its name?

Formerly known as the City Forest National Park, the Salim Ali National Park spread over 9 sq km, is a protected area located within the capital city of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The park is named after the famous Indian Ornithologist and Naturalist, Salim Ali.

The park is home to the hangul, the endangered antelope, and the wildlife here includes the serow, chakar, monal and the rare snow cock. The best season to visit the park is from April to October.

Vansda National Park

The Vansda National Park in Gujarat is spread over an area of 24 sq km, in the mountains of the Western Ghats. It has dense forests of bamboos and tall teak trees and abounds with orchids, mango groves and gigantic creepers. The park has more than 250 species of plants, including a large variety of rare animals and birds.

Why was the Dachigam National Park initially created?

The Dachigam National Park in Jammu and Kashmir was formed by relocating ten villages, and the name of the park literally means 'Ten Villages'. The park has been a protected area since 1910, first under the Maharajah of Jammu and Kashmir, and later under the Indian Government. It was upgraded to a national park in the year 1981.

The hangul or Kashmir stag is the most famous of the endangered species found here, and the park is also home to many other exotic wildlife, including musk deer, leopard, Himalayan grey langur, leopard cat, Himalayan black bear, Himalayan brown bear, jackal, hill fox and Himalayan weasel.

There is also a spectacular variety of birds present, from the cinnamon sparrow, black bulbul, Himalayan monal, golden oriole, pygmy owlet and woodpecker to babblers, redstarts, wagtails, orange bullfinch and the Kashmir flycatcher.

Himalayan Black Bear





Snow Leopard

What are the main features of the Hemis National Park?

The Hemis National Park is the only national park in India that lies north of the Himalayas. It is a high altitude park in Eastern Ladakh.

Spread over 3350 sq km, the park is home to 16 species of mammals. It is the protected home for endangered mammals like leopards, Asiatic ibex, Tibetan wolf, the Eurasian brown bear, and the red fox. Of these, the snow leopard is the star attraction. The park also has the distinction of being the only habitat of shapu or the Ladakhi urial in India.

The Hemis National Park is also a dream destination for birdwatchers. The park is home to over 70 species of birds. The 400-year-old Hemis Monastery, the largest monastery in Ladakh, is also located within the park.



New National Parks

Three new national parks were established in Himachal Pradesh in 2010. They are the Inderkilla, Simbalbara, and Khirganga National Parks. Of the three, the Khirganga National Park is the largest.



Hemis Park and Tourism

The Hemis Festival, held every summer at the Hemis

Monastery, is a big draw for tourists. There are no metalled or motorable roads within the park, but there are many trekking routes that are very popular. There are no hotels either, but there are six villages within the park where home stay facilities are available.



Sloth Bear

What is Betla National Park known for?

Betla National Park, earlier known as Palamu Sanctuary, is one of the most widely known national parks in the North Eastern part of the Indian subcontinent. Pure stands of sal forest, rich evergreens, teak trees and bamboo thickets are home to some 37

tigers, 62 leopards, 210 elephants and 249 bison. Some of the other important animals found in this park are panthers, wild boars, sloth bears, chitals, sambars, nilgais, langurs, jackals, small Indian civets and ant-eating pangolins. There are also 174 species of birds, along with reptiles, and more than

I'm from the census department. I need your family details.





970 species of plants and shrubs, the majority of them possessing medicinal properties. Living among the animals are eight local tribes, spread across 200 small villages. This area was also the seat of power in the Chero Dynasty, and two of its 16th century forts still exist in the jungle.

*Anshi
National Park*

Kishtwar National Park

Kishtwar National Park, in Jammu and Kashmir, was established in the year 1990, with the aim of protecting snow leopards. It is the natural habitat of 15 mammal species including the musk deer and Himalayan black and brown bear, as well as 50 species of birds.

Power Station

The country's third-largest nuclear power station, Kaiga Generating Station, is located in the Western Ghats, not far from the Anshi National Park.

Why is the Nagarahole National Park called by this name?

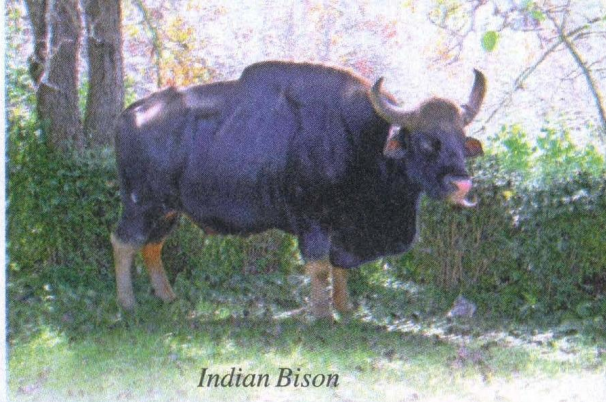
The Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka is also known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Park. On its northern part is the Kabini River, and on its southern fringes is the Bandipur National Park. A dam on the Kabini River and its reservoir separates the two national parks. Nagarahole National Park is blessed with fascinating wildlife. There are grassy swamps lined with teak and eucalyptus, and sparkling waterfalls, as well as rich tropical forests where the Maharajas of Mysore once used to hunt. The park has a large elephant, and bison population. There are also tigers, leopards, sloth bears and wild dogs as well as spotted deer, sambar and wild boars. There are around 250 species of birds too, as well as amphibians and reptiles, including of course, snakes!

Elephant



Papikonda National Park

The Papikonda National Park is located on the banks of the river Godavari, and stretches over an area covering three major districts of Andhra Pradesh. Located in the region of the Eastern Ghats, this National Park is home to several rare varieties of wild animals and birds. The different species of flora that are found in the Papikonda National Park include teak, rose myrtle, crepe myrtle, Indian rosewood, and rattle pod.

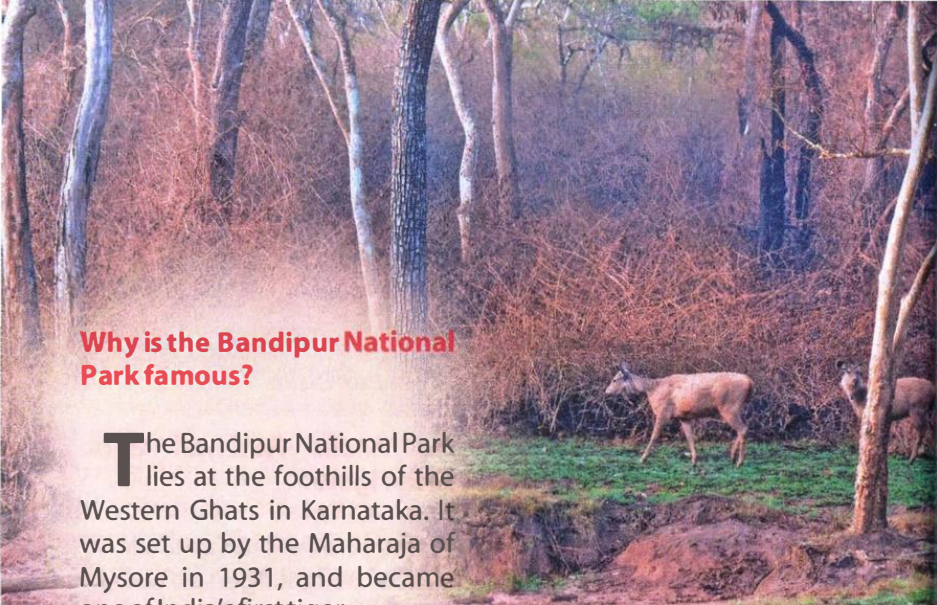


Indian Bison

Why is the Anshi National Park associated with Tigers?

The Anshi National Park in Karnataka is the habitat of Bengal tigers as well as black panthers and Indian elephants. It has the rare distinction of being the only park in Asia where the black panther is found naturally. The park abounds in wildlife like the Indian bison, sloth bear, Indian wild boar, bonnet macaque, northern plains gray langur, and the gray slender loris. There are about 197 rare species of birds. The reptile population is very impressive too.





Why is the Bandipur National Park famous?

The Bandipur National Park lies at the foothills of the Western Ghats in Karnataka. It was set up by the Maharaja of Mysore in 1931, and became one of India's first tiger reserves. In 1974, Bandipur became a national park. The entire area now constitutes the vast Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, one of India's most extensive tracts of protected forest.

Bandipur's vast open spaces make it a pleasant and convenient outing for visitors to see the elephant in its natural surroundings.

In addition to tigers and elephants, some of the other animals that can be seen include the bonnet macaque, smooth-coated otter, common palm civet, jungle cat, and chital.

Bandipur National Park

Butterfly Park

The Bannerghatta Biological Park has the country's first butterfly park.

It is spread out over 7.5 acres, and includes a butterfly conservatory, museum and audio visual room.

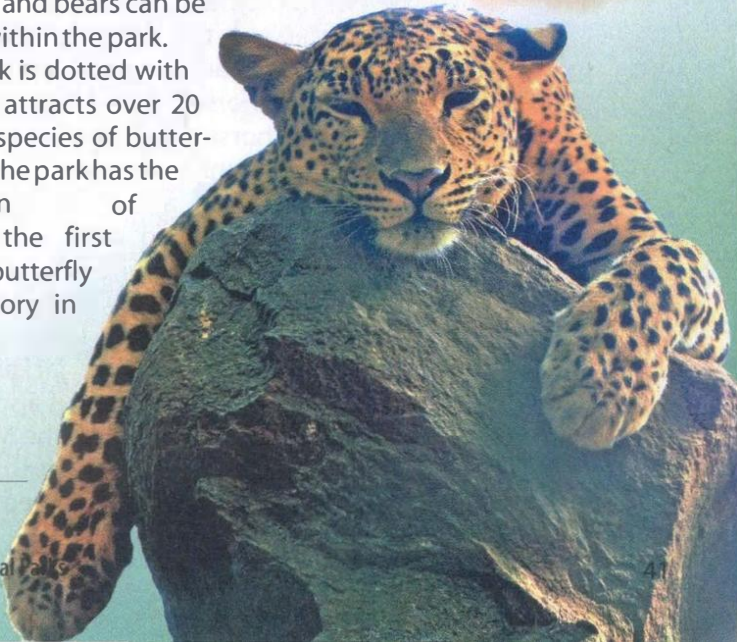
The conservatory has a lovely tropical setting with a host of plants and shrubs to attract butterflies.

What is the unique feature of the Bannerghatta National Park?

The Bannerghatta National Park is in Karnataka. Spread across an area of over 104.27 sq km, the Bannerghatta National Park was established in the year 1974. A part of the national park has been declared a biological park.

The park houses a zoo, conservatories, and a museum. The park is famous for a wide variety of birds and animals, and is especially known for its tiger and lion safaris. Leopards, lions, zebras, bengal tigers, panthers, porcupines, rhinoceroses, elephants, spotted deers, white tigers, bison, panthers, and bears can be spotted within the park.

The park is dotted with flora that attracts over 20 different species of butterflies, and the park has the distinction of housing the first ever butterfly conservatory in India.



Leopard

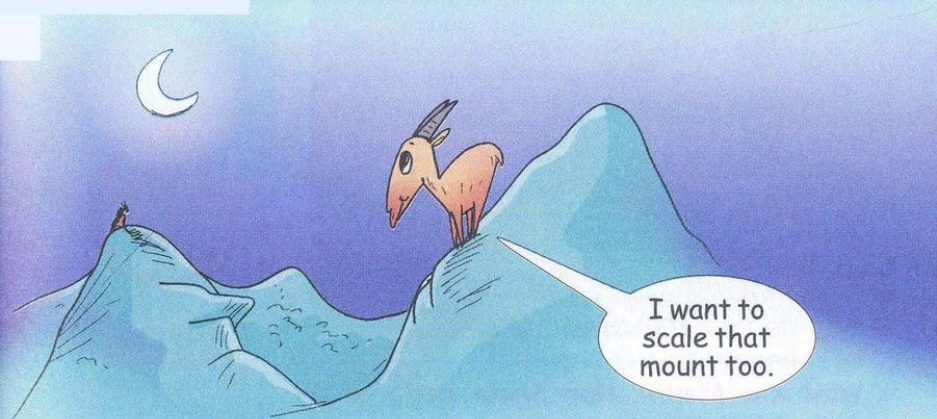


Kadambi Waterfalls

The Kadambi Waterfalls in Kudremukh National Park is an awe-inspiring sight in the monsoon when the water thunders down majestically. The falls can be viewed from the roadside itself.

Why do tourists flock to Kudremukh National Park?

The Kudremukh National Park is located in the Western Ghats in Karnataka. The park is named after a peak shaped like a horse's face – the name, in fact, means 'horse face'. The park covers four mountain ranges named Kudremukh, Kerekatte, Kalasa, and Shimoga. The mountains are clothed with eucalyptus, casuarinas and acacia auriculiformis trees, while the wide array of wildlife includes tigers, leopards, wild dogs, Malabar giant squirrels, common langurs, jackals, and giant flying squirrels. The park is also home to several species of birds like the Malabar trogon, Malabar whistling thrush, great pied hornbill and the Imperial pigeon.



What are the two things the Eravikulam National Park is most famous for?

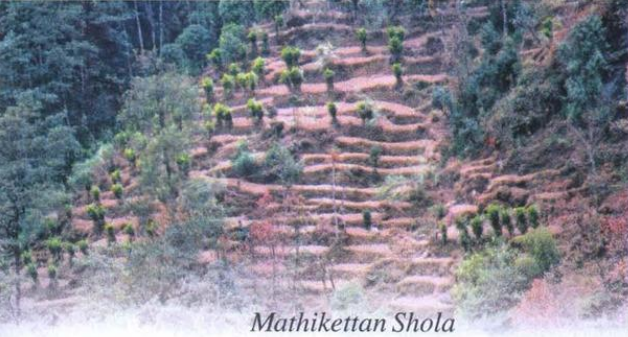
The Eravikulam National Park was once a hunting preserve of the British. It was declared a sanctuary in 1975, with the intention of protecting a highly endangered mountain goat, the Nilgiri tahr. In 1978, it became a national park. The main body of the national park is a high rolling plateau.

Spread out along the crest of the Western Ghats in the high ranges of Idukki district of Kerala, the park also is the abode of other little known fauna such as the Nilgiri marten, ruddy mongoose, small clawed



Nilgiri Tahr

otter, and dusky striped squirrel among others. About 120 species of birds have been recorded here, as well as 100 species of butterflies. In addition to the Nilgiri tahr, Eravikulam National Park is also famed for the spectacular mass flowering of the shrub neelakurunji, which takes place in the grasslands once every twelve years.

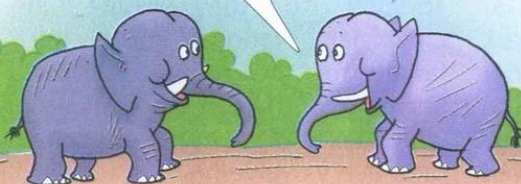


Mathikettan Shola

Why was Mathikettan Shola declared a national park?

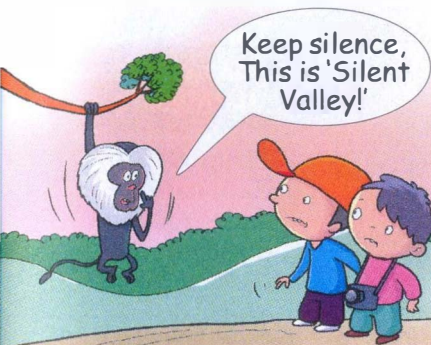
Mathikettan Shola, in the Idukki district of Kerala was declared a national park to protect the wildlife and rich biodiversity of the area. It is part of the elephant corridor, and home to rare and magnificent wildlife like elephant, tiger, panther, Indian bison and Nilgiri tahr. The park provides an excellent habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds, butterflies, and reptiles. The area under the Mathikettan Shola National Park has parts of the Cardamom Hill Reserve, which was earlier leased out for plantations. The park is near other national parks like Eravikulam and Pampadum Shola National Park.

Cheer up! This is our national park.



Biological Treasures

Silent Valley has about 1000 species of flowering plants, 107 species of orchids, 100 ferns and fern allies, 200 liverworts, 75 lichens, and about 200 algae. Many of these are unique to this region, while others are extremely rare, and new species are constantly being discovered. In addition, the Silent Valley has four types of forests!



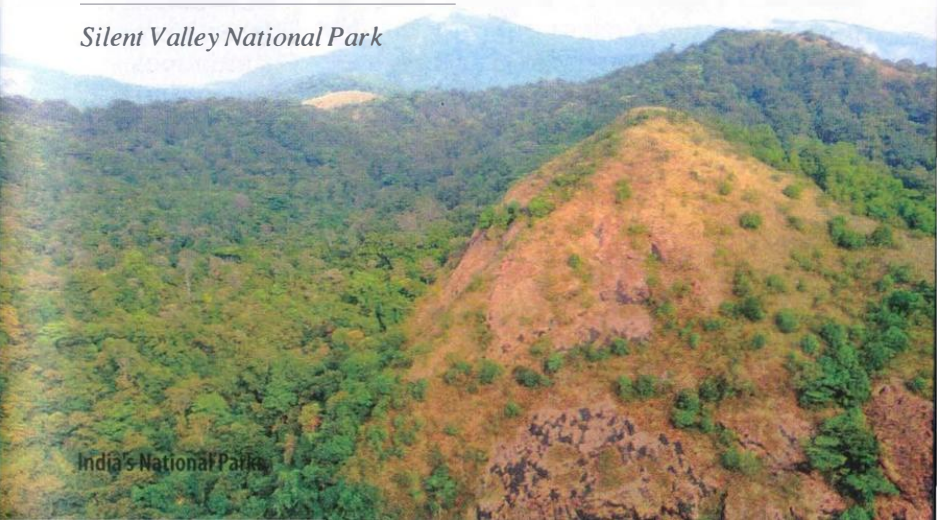
Why is the Silent Valley National Park called 'Nature's Gift to Mankind'?

The Silent Valley National Park in Kerala is unique in many ways. It is shut off from the world as it is surrounded on all sides by mountains, continuous ridges, and steep

cliffs. As a result, it is shielded from extremes of climate, and at the same time, its flora and fauna have remained relatively untouched since times immemorial.

The Silent Valley National Park is the unique preserve of a natural rainforest that probably dates back 50 million years. The park is home to 34 species of mammals, 292 species of birds, 31 species of reptiles, 22 species of amphibians, 13 species of fishes, 500 species of butterflies and moths, besides a multitude of lower forms of animal life most of which are yet to be documented. Of these, the most famous resident of the park is the lion-tailed macaque whose name has become almost synonymous with that of the valley.

Silent Valley National Park

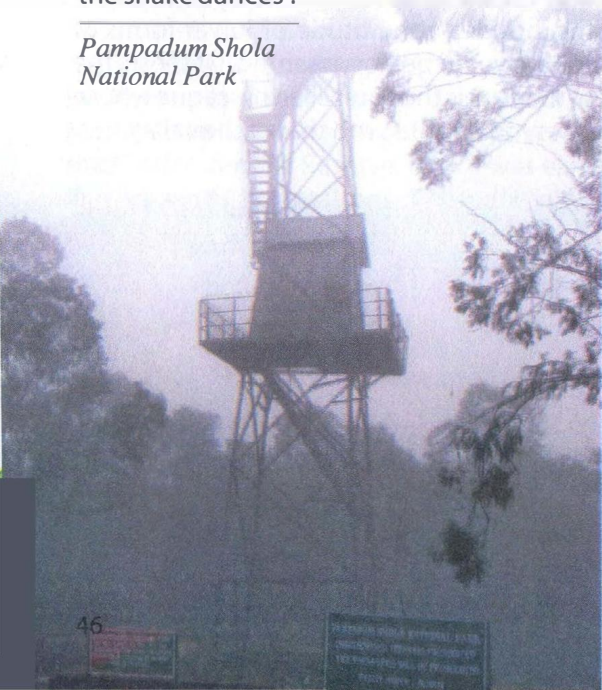


How did Pampadum Shola National Park get its name?

The Pampadum Shola National Park is located in the eastern part of Western Ghats in Kerala. Misty and cloudy throughout the year, the park has hillocks of varying heights, forests and grasslands. 22 Species of trees, 74 species of herbs and shrubs and 16 species of climbers make the Park a botanist's dream.

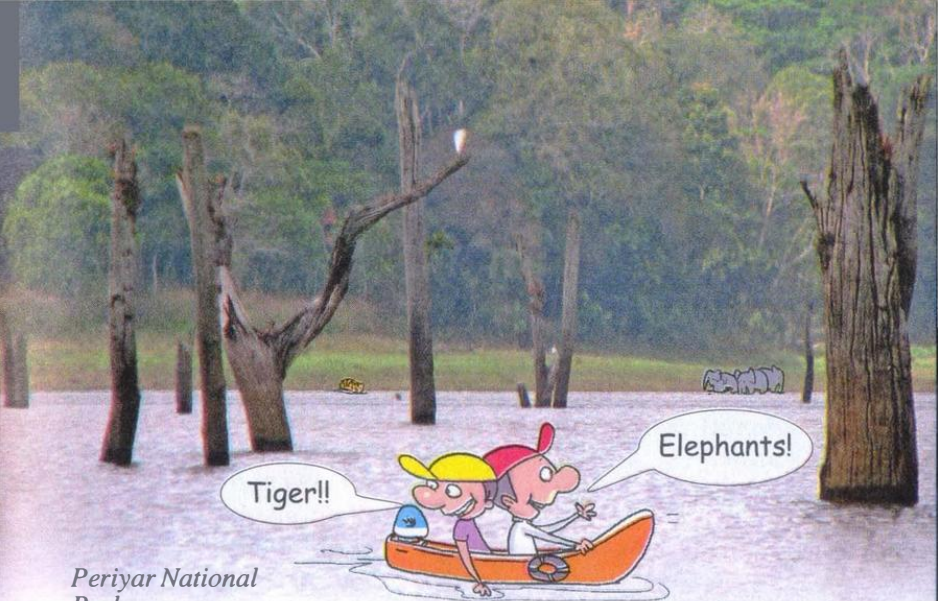
In addition to elephants, gaurs, leopards, wild boars, sambar and common langurs, there are many rare, endangered and unique species of wildlife too. The name of the park 'Pampadum Shola' means 'the forest where the snake dances'.

*Pampadum Shola
National Park*



Anamudi Shola National Park

Anamudi Shola National Park is located along the Western Ghats in the Idukki district of Kerala. It represents one of the largest shola forest ecosystems in the country, with a unique biodiversity and climate. These forests are totally free from human habitations within its boundaries. The forest has a continuous canopy interspersed with emerging grasslands. Many of the species noted here are found only here, and some are in the threatened category.



*Periyar National
Park*

What are some of the attractions of the Periyar National Park?

The Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala is famous as an elephant and tiger reserve. The sanctuary surrounds the picturesque Periyar Lakethat was formed when the Mullaperiyar Dam was built in 1895. Sixty-two different kinds of mammals have been recorded in Periyar, including many threatened ones. There are around 52 tigers and nearly 1000 elephants in the reserve area. Another rare animal glimpsed here is the Nilgiri tahr. The park also has over 320 kinds of birds, 45 varieties of reptiles, 27 different kinds of insects, some of which are found only in the Western Ghats, and a remarkable number of butterflies- some of which are even dangerous!



Primates in Periyar

The rare lion-tailed macaque, the Nilgiri

langur, the common langur, and the bonnet macaque are some of the primates that can be found in the Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Where is the Bandhavgarh National Park situated?

Bandhavgarh National Park, in Madhya Pradesh, lies amidst the outlying hills of the Vindhya Range. The park was the former hunting preserve of the Maharaja of Rewa and, at present, is a famous natural hub for white tigers. White tigers, now a major attraction around the world's zoos, were first discovered in Rewa, not far from here.

The park is also famous for the largest breeding population of leopards and various species of deer. Other forms of wildlife like nilgai, chausingha, chital, chinkara, wild boar, and sometimes foxes and jackals can also be seen.

The park has more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds, as well as a large variety of reptiles.

Tigers





*Kanha
National Park*

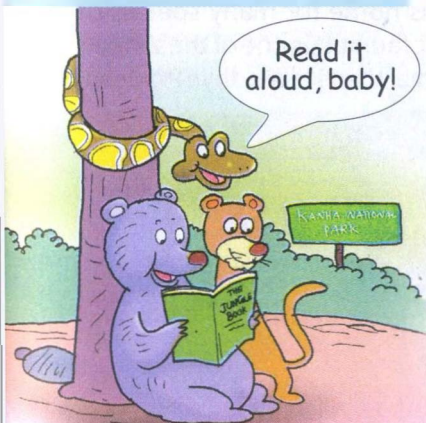
Butterflies

In the Silent Valley National Park, there are 128 species of butterflies. Of these, nine are not found anywhere else in the world!

Why is the Kanha National Park associated with Rudyard Kipling?

Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh has the reputation of being one of the finest and best administered parks in Asia. The park has a tiger reserve that was created in 1974, and it is the only habitat of the rare hardground Barasingha, often referred as 'the jewel of Kanha'. Other mammals found here are the panther, chital, sambar, and black buck.

Did you know that Kanha is the place that has been described by Rudyard Kipling in his great book, 'The Jungle Book'?





Fossil National Park

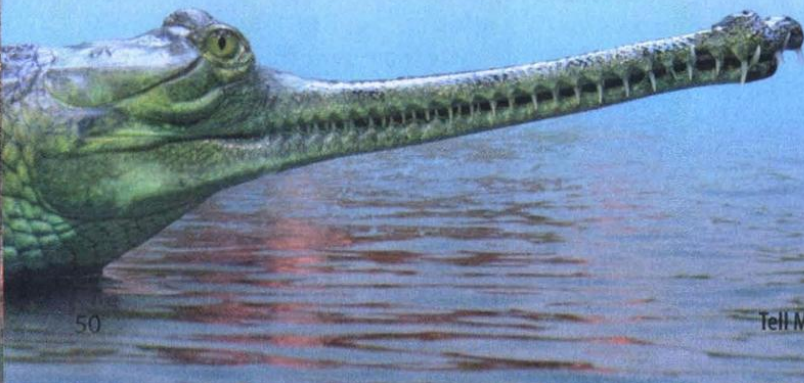
The Fossil National Park in Madhya Pradesh is a unique park where fossils belonging to 31 genera of 18 plant species have been identified. Well preserved fossils of woody plants including palms, climbers, flowers, fruits, and seeds give us a glimpse of plant life some 65 million years ago.

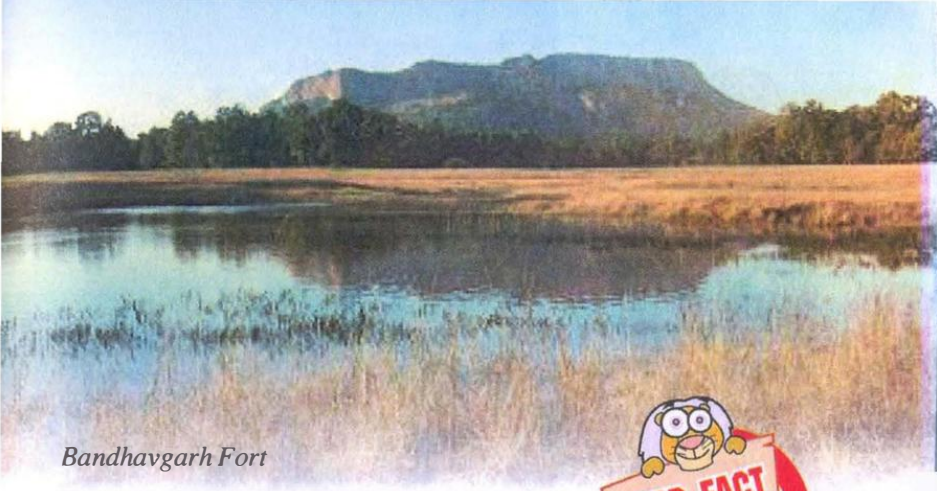
Where is the Panna National Park?

The Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh is on the banks of the River Ken. It is a land of deep gorges, lush forests, and tranquil valleys. Here, one can glimpse tigers along with leopards, wolves and gharials. Herds of blue bulls, chinkaras and sambars are a common sight along with an amazing number of other forms of wildlife. Panna is the twenty second tiger reserve in India and the fifth in Madhya Pradesh. The reserve is situated in the Vindhya Ranges and spreads over Panna and Chattarpur districts in the north of the state.

The Ken River which flows through the reserve from south to north is home for many species of aquatic fauna. It is one of the sixteen perennial rivers of Madhya Pradesh,

Gharial





Bandhavgarh Fort

and is truly the lifeline of the reserve. The park can probably boast of the highest density of the paradise fly-catchers, and is rich in bird life too.

The park's area includes the former shooting reserves of the erstwhile royal state of Panna and Chhattarpur. Due to its proximity to one of the best-known tourist attractions in India, Khajuraho, the Panna National Park is recognized as an exciting stop-over destination.

Bandhavgarh Fort

Bandhavgarh Fort, believed to be around 2,000 years old, is located atop the Bandhavgarh Hill, in the centre of the national park. The fort was the seat of rulers of Rewa State. Today, the park is home to many endangered species of vultures.



Bamini Dadar

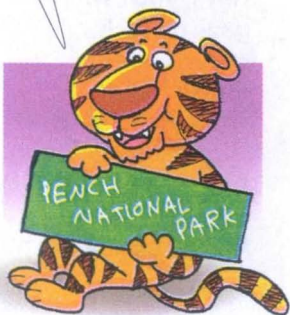
One of the most beautiful spots in Kanha National Park is Bamini Dadar, also known as Sunset point. Here, you can gaze on lush green vistas of dense forests while the sun slips down below the horizon in a blaze of glory.



Most National Parks

Madhya Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the maximum number of national parks in India- nine each. Interestingly, there is no national park in Punjab.

Happy
to be a Pench
Tiger!



Hanuman Langur

What are the attractions of the Pench National Park and Tiger Reserve?

Nestling in the Southern slopes of the Satpura ranges of Central India, the Pench National Park and Tiger Reserve encompasses the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Mowgli Pench Sanctuary, and a buffer zone. It was declared a national park by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975, and received the official status of 'Tiger Reserve of India' in 1999. The park is four different forest regions in one, with an amazing variety of trees, shrubs, grasses, climbers, weeds and herbs, with teak being the most prominent of the tree species. The park is home to 33 species of mammals, 164 species of birds, 50 species of fishes, 10 species of amphibians, 30 species of reptiles, and a wide variety of insect life. Visiting Pench National Park is an enlightening experience for everyone.

Why is the Madhav National Park unique?

The Madhav National Park is a unique mixture of natural splendour, history, and architectural wonders. Another unique feature is that it has the eco systems of both lakes and forests. Located in Madhya Pradesh, the park has two lakes, Sakhya and Madhav Sagar. Marsh crocodiles are seen in abundance in the Sakhya Lake, and are a popular tourist attraction. The park has different types of forests, and is home to antelopes like nilgai, chinkara and chowsinga as well as deer like chital, sambar and barking deer. The wildlife also includes leopards, wolves, wild pigs, porcupines, marsh crocodiles and pythons.

Deep inside the Madhav National Park, at its highest point, stands the exquisite George Castle. It was built by Jivaji Rao Scindia of the Gwalior royal family for an overnight halt for tiger shooting by the British King George V, when he was to pass that way during his visit to India in 1911.

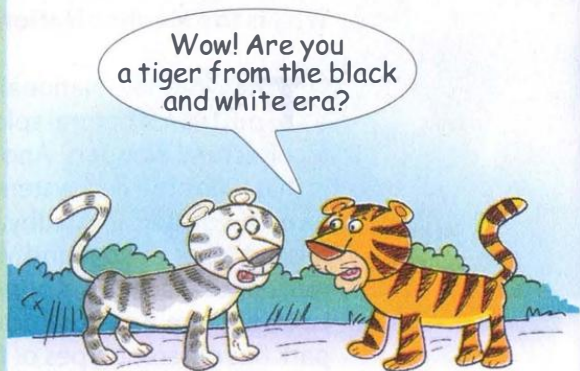
*Madhav
National Park*





Project Tiger

Project Tiger was launched in 1973 by the Government of India to protect and conserve tigers, as well as areas of biological importance, both as a national heritage, and for enjoyment and education of the people. An estimated 93,697 sq km has been observed as tiger habitat, and the estimated number of tigers is 1411.



Why is the Sanjay National Park famous?

The Sanjay National Park, in Madhya Pradesh, is one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh. The park is made up of hills, valleys, deep gorges and plains with numerous streams. The flora in this National Park consists mainly of babul, sal, bel, bambo, palas, hiwar, bel, bija, khair, tendu, dhawda, zizphus helicteres, salaia and teak. As regards the wildlife, the major

Second Largest Biodiversity Base

India has the second largest biodiversity base in the world. Its wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are home to the largest number of tigers and one-horned rhinoceros in the world, as well as the almost extinct Asiatic lion, and a large percentage of the total elephant population.

attraction is the elephant. The most commonly found species include bison, chital, panther, wolf, four-horned antelope, barking deer, wild dog, sambar, chinkara, blue bull, hyena, wild boar, bear and crocodile.

In the winter months, the sanctuary comes alive with the flutter of colourful birds and their chirping.

Tourists can visit the park from the months of October to June, as this is the time that the sanctuary is at its most beautiful. The park is famous for the fact that it was here that last of the white tigers, Mohan, was saved from extinction.

Elephant



Project Elephant

Project Elephant was

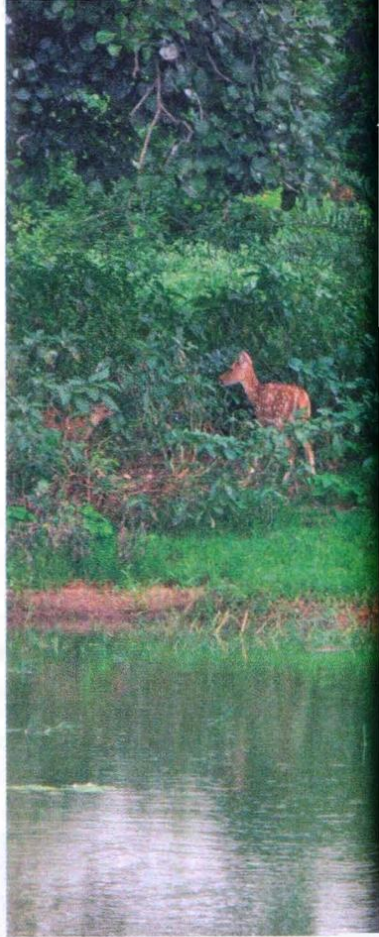
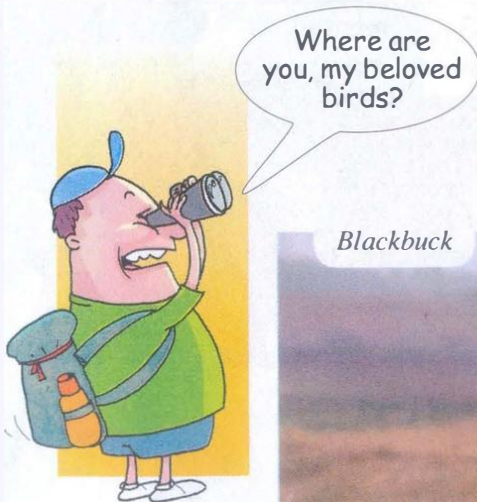
launched in 1992 to ensure the long-term survival of the elephant population in their natural habitats in different states. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the states in which the project is at present being implemented.



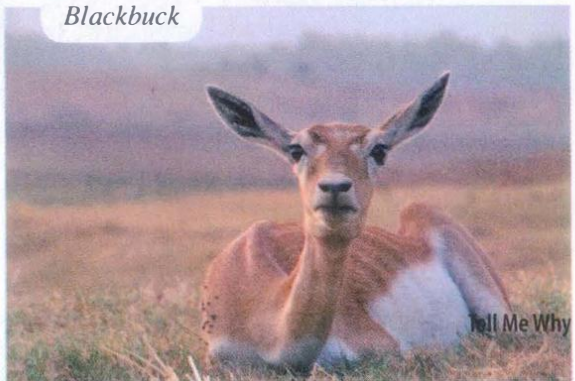
What do we know about Satpura National Park?

The Satpura National Park is in Madhya Pradesh. It was set up in 1981, mainly for the conservation of tigers, the national animal of India. The wildlife here is fascinating, and includes spotted deer, Indian bison or gaur, tigers, leopards, wild boar, wild dogs, sloth bear, black buck Porcupine, sambar, and four horned antelopes or chowsingha.

There are birds in plenty for birdwatchers too. The best time to visit the park is during the months of November to March: during monsoons, it remains closed.



Blackbuck





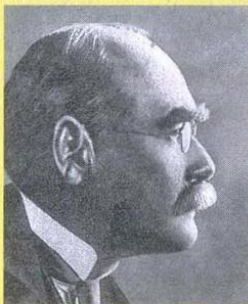
Cheetah at Van Vihar



Crocodile at Van Vihar

What is the importance of the Van Vihar National Park?

The Van Vihar National Park in Madhya Pradesh is near the Upper Lake of Bhopal, its capital city. The Van Vihar National Park has been developed as a zoological park, in which wild animals are contained safely in their natural settings. Herbivores like chital, sambar, and nilghai can be seen under free ranging conditions while animals like the tiger, lion, leopard, hyena, crocodile and gharial are held in captive conditions. Large numbers of birds frequent this park- over 200 species. The migratory waterfowl come in great numbers in the adjoining extensive wetland of the big lake. Apart from this, the common pariah kite, great horned owl, shikra, and kestrel are some of the important birds of prey. The upper lake is the abode of a wide array of birds, and more than 40 species of migratory birds visit this area during winter.



Rudyard Kipling

Jungle Book

Much of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' is set in Pench National Park, and the character of Mowgli was inspired by Sir William Henry Sleeman's pamphlet, 'An Account of Wolves Nurturing Children in Their Dens', which describes a wolf-boy captured in Seoni district near the village of Sant Baori in 1831. In fact, many of 'The Jungle Book' locations are actual locations in the Seoni district.



What is special about the Gugamal National Park?

The Gugamal National Park in Maharashtra was established in 1987. It is located in the Satpura Hills, and is the only park in the state that still has tigers. It is a division of Melghat Tiger Reserve. The park has a wealth of other wildlife too, including panthers, sloth bears, wild dogs, sambars as well as rats, flying squirrels, cheetals, nilgais, wild boars, langurs, rhesus monkeys and macaques. Migratory birds from all over the world flock to this park too.

Barking Deer

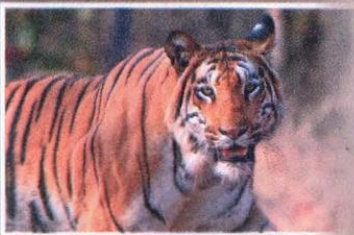


**What is the
Navegaon National
Park best known for?**

*Paradise
Flycatcher*

The Navegaon National Park in Eastern Maharashtra is a popular forest resort. Set in the Vidarbha region, it has a picturesque lake set amidst lush green hills and the seven peaks surrounding the lake are known as 'Sat Bahini' or 'Seven Sisters'. There is an island in the middle of the lake, and the area around the lake forms the Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

The park abounds with forests of teak, haldu, jamun, kawat, mahua, ain, bhel and bhor. Tigers, panthers, bisons, sambars, nilgais, chitals, wild boars, sloth bears, and wild dogs are also to be seen here. But Navegaon is most famous for its birds. Here you can experience the thrill of spotting a scarlet minivet, a paradise flycatcher, or the blue flash of a kingfisher. The Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary in Navegaon is home to almost 60 percent of the migratory birds seen in Maharashtra.



Tiger

Where is the Sanjay Gandhi National Park?

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park is in the Mumbai suburb of Borivali. In spite of being surrounded by Mumbai's urban sprawl, the park does have a sizeable population of big cats like panthers. It has the reputation of being the most visited national park, and also being the world's largest park within city limits.

The forest enclosed in the park is an ideal dwelling place for many varieties of wild animals. These include bonnet and rhesus macaque, chital, Indian hare, gray langur and sambar, in addition to big cats. The Park is a birdwatcher's dream. From the tiny Tickell's flower pecker and humming bird to the majestic white bellied sea eagle, the paradise flycatcher, the elusive trogon, many species of kingfishers and drongos can be seen.



Chandoli National Park

The Chandoli National Park in Maharashtra is in the southern portion of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, and is spread along the crest of the Sahyadri range. Nearly 23 species of mammals, 122 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and reptiles can be seen in the forests, which are a mix of Malabar Coast moist forests, and North Western Ghats moist deciduous forests.



*Tiger at
Tadoda
National
Park*

What are the interesting features of the Tadoba National Park?

The Tadoba National Park lies in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and is often referred to as 'the jewel of vidarbha'. The park is located in the heart of a reserve forest, and forms a part of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. To the southwest is the huge, bamboo fringed Tadoba Lake, which is the home of the marsh crocodile, and attracts many water birds like cattle egrets, purple moorhens and jacanas. Ornithologists will get to see as many as 181 species of birds. The star attraction is undoubtedly the Tiger. Tadoda National Park has around 50 Tigers, as well as other rare Indian wildlife including leopards, gaur, wild dogs, sloth bears, jungle cats, hyenas and different other species of Indian deer such as sambar, chital, nilgai and barking deer. The Tadoba National Park is the oldest national park in Maharashtra.

Why is the Keibul Lamjao National Park unique?

*Indian
Python*

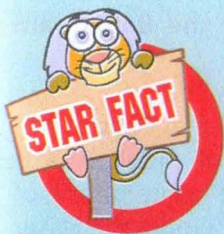
The Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur is the world's only floating national park and is the last natural habitat of the Manipur brow antlered deer – Sangai. It is characterized by many floating decomposed plant materials, that are locally called phumdis.

Two thirds to three fourths of the total park area is formed by phumdis, which occupy the south-eastern side of the Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in India. It is the Sangai, which is also called the dancing deer, which has a pride of place in the folklore and culture of Manipur State, and is the state animal.



Hurry up!
We are reaching
Keibul Lamjao
National Park.





Kanheri Caves

The Kanheri Caves in Sanjay Gandhi National Park give us a glimpse into Ancient Buddhist India. Most of the 109 caves, chiselled out of the rock, are small cells meant for Buddhist monks. The main cave is huge, and has an immense statue of Lord Buddha. There are also caves that are meant to be used as prayer halls. The caves are believed to have been carved between the 1st century BC, and the 9th century AD.

India's National Parks

What is the importance of the Nokrek National Park?

The Nokrek National Park is in Meghalaya, which is regarded as the wettest state of India. It is the first biosphere reserve of its kind in the northeast region. Nokrek is the highest peak in the Garo Hills, and is home to different species of wild animals including elephants and hoolock gibbons. The capped langur, clouded leopard, Leopard cat, fishing-cat, golden cat, pangolin, wild buffalo, python, elephant, serow and tiger are some of other animals that can be seen here. One can also spot birds such as Hornbill, Peacock, Pheasant, Hollock and many more. The salt deposits found in the area attract green pigeons during March and April.

Peacock



Phawngpui National Park

Phawngpui Park is in Mizoram, near the Myanmar border. It is an enchanting forest area sprawling around Phwangpui, the Blue Mountain of Mizoram, and the highest peak in the state, which is considered by the local residents to be the abode of the gods. In addition to its wealth of wild life and magnificent flora, the park is famous for its orchids and rhododendrons that carpet the valleys.

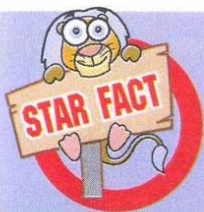
What is special about the Balpakram Park?

The Balpakram National Park in the South Garo Hills of Meghalaya is renowned for being the home of one of the rarest animals in the world, the lesser panda, or as it is more popularly known, the red panda. The word 'Balpakram' means 'land of the perpetual winds,' and this is indeed a land shrouded in mystery

Oriole



Tell Me Why



Selbagre Hoolock Gibbon Reserve

This reserve in the West Garo Hills, is home to the hoolock gibbons, the only ape species found in India. The sacred grove in the reserve is the pride of the village and the community. There is a traditional belief among the villagers that if a hoolock gibbon is killed, a famine or a curse would befall the entire village.

and blessed with the most breath taking scenery and an amazing variety of wild life. The park has 609 elephants and 46 tigers, while other mammals include the clouded leopard, golden cat, serrow, wild buffalo, black bear, red panda, and hoolock gibbon. The great hornbill, common hornbill, peacock, oriole, kingfisher and Indian roller are some of the birds that can be seen.

What makes this park special and mysterious to the tribes and local people is, among other things, a deep gorge where it is believed that the spirits of the dead dwell temporarily before embarking on their final journey.

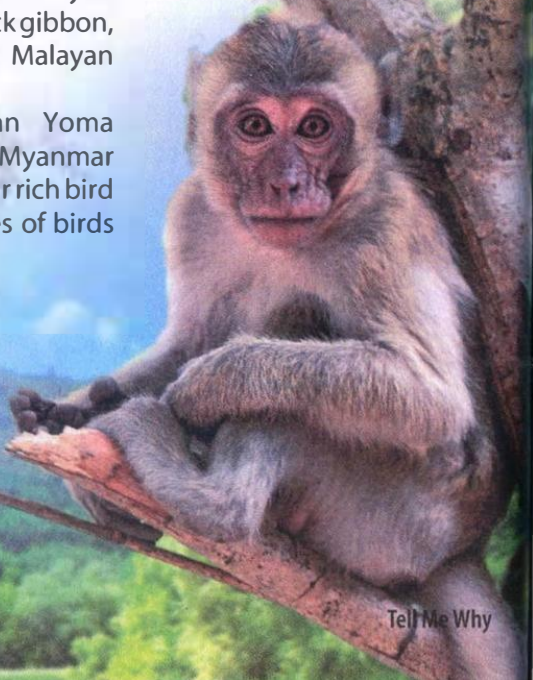


What are the features of the Murlen National Park?

One of Mizoram's best-known parks, the Murlen National Park lies close to the Indo-Myanmar border, near the Chin Hills. This is a land of steep hills, high cliffs, rippling clear water rivulets, lakes and natural salt licks at altitudes ranging between 400 metres to 1897 metres. The vegetation is lush, and over 35 species of medicinal plants, two species of bamboo and four species of orchids have been so far recorded in the Murlen National Park. The virgin forests are home to a unique stock of endangered wild species which include the Bengal tiger, leopard, sambar, barking deer, Himalayan black bear, serow, hoolock gibbon, rhesus macaque and Malayan giant squirrel.

The Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma Montane Rain Forests of Myanmar are world famous for their rich bird life, and over 150 species of birds can be seen here.

*Rhesus
Macaque*





Great Hornbill



Why is the Intangki National Park a popular tourist destination?

The Intangki National Park in Nagaland was established by the British administrators in the year 1923. Rolling mountains and enchanting valleys spread over a unique 202.02 sq km area make this one of the most popular national parks in the North East.

The park has thick forests which create a natural habitat for many birds, reptiles and mammals. Here you can see wild buffaloes also called mithun, and the hoolok gibbon. Apart from this, the park also has tigers, sloth bears, wild dogs, and flying squirrels. You will also see the golden langur, hornbill, palm civet, black stork, white-breast kingfisher and reptiles like the monitor lizard, and python. The name 'Intangki' is derived from the Zeme dialect of the Zeliangrong tribe. This national park is an ideal place for birdwatching, trekking, and camping.



*Olive Ridley
Sea Turtle*

Why is the Bhitarkanika National Park an amazing place?

The Bhitarkanika National Park in Orissa is a unique habitat of mangrove forests, criss-crossed with numerous creeks and mudflats. It is the second largest mangrove eco-system in India, and has more than 70 species of mangroves. These mangrove plants are a rich source of food for the organisms of the mangrove ecosystem. The animals that are associated with the mangroves cover a wide range of vertebrate and other invertebrates, including protozoans and zoo planktons.



Rajiv Gandhi National Park

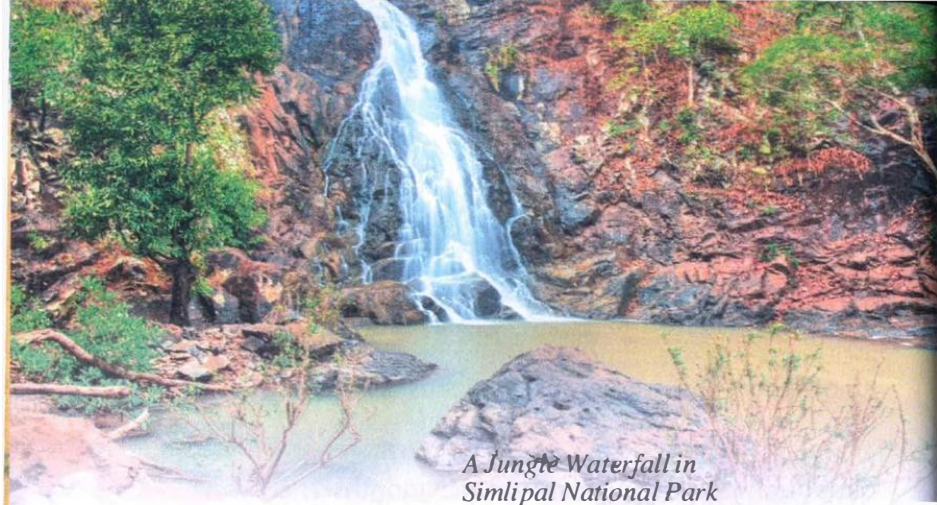
Did you know that there is a national park that is just 2.3 sq km? It is the Rajiv Gandhi National Park. This small park was established in 2005, in Andhra Pradesh.

The wetland is represented by as many as three protected areas, namely 'The Bhitarkanika National Park', 'The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary,' and 'The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary'. Bhitarkanika is a hot-spot of biodiversity. It is home to the largest population of giant salt water crocodile in India. It is also home to the more than 215 species of birds, including an astounding eight varieties of Kingfishers. The numerous wetlands scattered throughout the sanctuary serve as a feeding and wintering grounds for more than 50,000 migratory birds during winter and early summer months. The sanctuary is also the world's largest nesting ground of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle. In the whole of South-East Asia as well as in the Northern Indian Ocean countries, Bhitarkanika is famous for its reptilian fauna. In fact, the longest estuarine crocodiles of the world measuring more than seven metres in length are located here!

*Barehipani
Falls in
Simlipal
National
Park*

Ancient Hunting Land

The Simlipal National Park was the hunting preserve of the Mayurbhanj maharajas. As a result, its wildlife was seriously depleted until it was declared a sanctuary in 1957.



*A Jungle Waterfall in
Simlipal National Park*

What are the attractions of the Simlipal National Park?

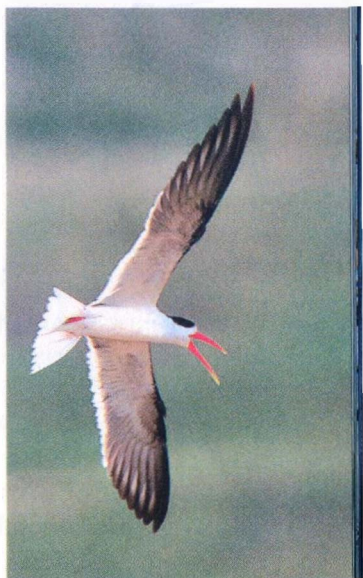
The Simlipal National Park in Orissa gets its name from the abundance of semul or red silk cotton trees found here. This national park has 12 rivers running across it, and has picturesque hills, thick wooded slopes, ridges, luxuriant grasslands, and beautiful waterfalls. The reserve is well known for its spectacular flowering plants- more than one thousand species. The Park is also a valuable source of medicinal and aromatic plants. Simlipal National Park is also home to three of India's biggest animal species- the tiger, Asian elephant, and gaur. Around 230 species of birds are found here. The national park is also home to a large number of reptiles. The other attractions of the Simlipal National Park include mugger crocodiles and the Barehipani and Joranda waterfalls.



Why is a visit to the Darrah National Park a wonderful experience?

The Darrah National Park in Rajasthan was originally the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Kota. It was established as a national park in 2003, and is actually a combination of three wildlife sanctuaries- Darrah, Chambal, and Jaswant Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to the wolf, sloth bear, chinkara, and leopard as well as the spotted deer, bear and antelope. The sanctuary is also home to a number of birds and reptiles. Many rare trees and plants with medicinal value can be found here too.

A visit to Darrah sanctuary can be complimented by a visit to Jhalwar where there is a historic fort. You can also visit Jhairapatan, which is renowned for the ruins of the Sun Temple which was built way back in the 10th century. A number of ancient temples, most of them built between the 7th - 8th centuries are located along the banks of Chandrabhaga River, and are worth seeing too.



Indian Skimmer

Chambal River





*Spotted
Deer*

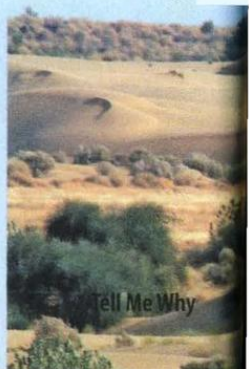
Why is the Ranthambore National Park a 'must-see' for wildlife lovers?

The Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan is probably the best place in the world to spot Bengal tigers in their natural habitat. It is part of the much larger Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, and amazingly, tigers can often be observed hunting in the daytime too.

Why is the Desert National Park different?

The Desert National Park in Rajasthan is located amidst the sprawling sand dunes of the Thar Desert, close to the Indo-Pak border, and is known for its fragile ecosystem, and unique and diverse flora and fauna.

It is one of the largest national parks of India, covering an area of over 3,162 sq km, and is primarily known for the great number of the endangered great Indian bustards that can be seen here.



Leave me
please. I am a
tourist.



The park is one of the biggest, and most renowned of the national parks in Northern India, and was once the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur. The vegetation in the park is mostly of the dry, deciduous type, with a large variety of plant life, covering nearly 300 species. In addition to

tigers, other wild cats found in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve are leopards, caracals, rusty spotted cats, and even fishing cats. Macaques, jackals, jungle cats, caracals, sloth bears, black bucks, rufous tailed hare, Indian wild boar and chinkara, are just some of the other animals that can be seen. About 272 species of birds have been documented in Ranthambore. It is also counted as a famous heritage site, because of the pictorial ruins that dot the wildlife park.

Craggy rocks, compact salt lake bottoms, and sand dunes cover 20 percent of its total area. The vegetation in the park comprises mainly of small grasses, shrubs, and xerophytes. The unique habitat supports a rich spectrum of wild life like spiny-tail lizards, desert monitors, desert wolves and desert cats.

The Desert National Park is different in that it is not the lush green vegetation that is the star attraction here, but the desert in its many moods and forms.




Why is the Sariska National Park more than a wildlife sanctuary?

The Sariska National Park in Rajasthan is a land of deciduous forests, grasslands, rocky landscapes, and steep cliffs. Sprawling across 273.8 sq km of the Aravalli Hills, it is perhaps one of India's most exciting wildlife reserves, and easily accessible from both Delhi and Jaipur. The park boasts of quite a few tigers and other wildlife including the leopard, wild dog, jungle cat, civets, hyena, and jackal as well as the sambar, chital, nilgai, chausingha, wild boar and langur. Sariska is also well known for its population of rhesus monkeys, as well as its birdlife.

The Sariska National Park was initially the hunting grounds of the royal family in the early 18th and 19th century. In fact, the sanctuary still houses the ruins of medieval houses and temples that date back to the 10th and 11th centuries. The Kankawadi Fort, the 'Nilkanth Temple,' and the Sariska Palace all make Sariska more than a wildlife sanctuary.

*A Deer in the
Sariska
National
Park*



Ready,
one.. two..
three..



What do we know about the Keoladeo National Park?

Keoladeo National Park

The Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan is a green oasis of wildlife that includes wetlands, woodlands, scrub forests, and grasslands. Due to its strategic location in the middle of Central Asia and the presence of water bodies, large congregations of ducks, geese, coots, pelicans, and waders arrive in the winter. The park is the only known wintering site of the critically endangered Siberian crane, and also serves as a wintering area for other globally threatened species such as the greater spotted eagle, and the imperial eagle.



An Egret in Keoladeo National Park

More than 15 species of herons, ibis, cormorants, spoonbills and storks can be seen during the breeding season. The park's well-designed system of dykes and sluices provides areas of varying water depths which are used by various species of birds. This former duck-hunting reserve of the maharajas is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A large photograph of a Red Panda climbing a tree trunk. The panda is positioned vertically, with its head at the bottom and its tail at the top. Its fur is a mix of reddish-brown and black, and its tail is long and bushy with alternating light and dark bands. The tree trunk is thick and has a rough, textured bark. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

*Red
Panda*



A Young Himalayan Thar

How did Khangchendzonga National Park get its name?

The Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is surrounded by glaciers and icy peaks, including the magnificent Kanchenjunga. In fact, the park derives its name from the towering Kanchenjunga Mountain.

A National Park as well as a biosphere reserve, this park was established in 1977. There are many glaciers in the park area, and among them, the Zemu Glacier is the longest and most awesome. The park has broad-leaved trees as well as coniferous forests and grasslands.

Which national park in India was set up for the clouded leopard?

The Sepahijala National Park in Tripura is the national park established for the clouded leopard. This 5.08 sq km park, situated in Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, was established in 2007, and houses a botanical garden, zoo, a lake, and many different species of trees.

Birds and primates are the star attractions here as well as a rare species of crab eating mongoose, which was last seen around 72 years ago. Apart from the clouded leopard, civets, barking deer and wild boar, this forest is home to five species of primates that include spectacled langur, rhesus macaque, capped langur and pigtailed macaque.



The animals found here are now leopard, clouded leopard, Himalayan black bear, red panda, bluesheep, musk deer, Himalayan thar, Tibetan wolf, and the Great Tibetan sheep. Around 550 bird species, including the green-

pigeon, Tibetan snowcock and snow pigeon can also be spotted.

Khangchendzonga National Park is a dream destination for mountaineers and nature lovers.

*A Stream in the
Indira Gandhi
National Park*

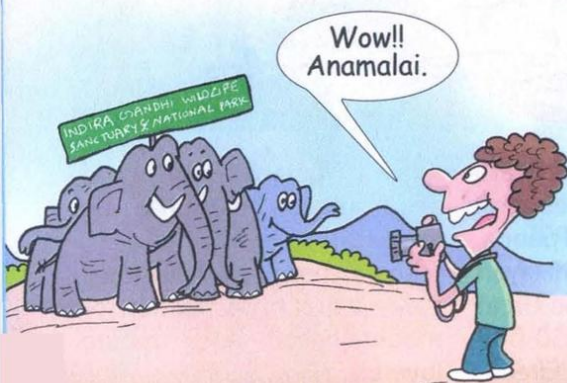


**Why is the Indira Gandhi Wildlife
Sanctuary and National Park
important?**

The Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park is the largest national park in Tamil Nadu. It lies in the

Western Ghats, and major reservoirs like Parambikulam, Aliyar, Thirumurthi, Upper Aliyar, Kadambarai, Sholayar and Amara-vathi are fed by the perennial rivers which originate from the sanctuary. It is therefore, very important for the economy of this region, both in terms of agriculture, as well as electricity. The sanctuary is also called Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary- the word 'Anamalai' means 'mountain of elephants.'

The scenic beauty of the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary has to be seen to be believed. The largest teak and rosewood trees are found in the lush forests of the



Rajbari National Park

The Rajbari National Park is also in Tripura. It covers around 31.63 sq km, and is a haven for the wildlife and flora of the region.

● *Sneha Rao*

sanctuary. Some of the animals dwelling in trees include the common langur, Nilgiris langur, Malabar giant squirrel, and grizzled giant squirrel, while on the ground, one can spot the tiger, panther, elephant, gaur, pangolin, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, mouse deer and wild boar among other wildlife. The great pied hornbill, and other rare birds like the frogmouth are among the 300 species of birds found here.

Why is the Guindy National Park unique?

The Guindy National Park, situated right in the heart of Chennai, is unique in that it has the rarest type of vegetation- tropical dry evergreen plants. A part of it has been made into a zoo, dedicated to the conservation of different species. Blackbuck, chital, jackal, pangolin, elephant, spotted deer, jungle cat, toddy cat and Indian civet are the major forms of wildlife found here. The park shelters over 100 species of birds such as the black winged kite, honey buzzard, and pariah kite. A snake park housed within this park supports



*Indian Peafowl at Children's Park in
Guindy National Park*

various snakes, crocodiles, and turtles.

The Guindy National Park has over 60 species of butterflies and spiders.

Another interesting fact is that the park, one of the smallest in India, is an extension of the grounds surrounding the official residence of the governor of Tamil Nadu.



Wild Boar

Where is the Mudumalai National Park?

The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park lies at the meeting place of three states- Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Along with the Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka in the North, and Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in the West, the region forms a single continuous habitat for a wealth of wildlife. A variety of habitats ranging from tropical evergreen forest, moist mixed deciduous, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grass lands, shrubs, and swamps exist here.



*Mudumalai
National Park*

Bird Paradise

The Keoladeo National Park is one of the world's most important breeding spots for birds. Over 350 species of birds can be seen here, including 42 species of raptors, and 9 species of owls. In addition, the park is home to 34 species of mammals, 22 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians, 57 species of fishes, 71 species of butterflies, and more than 30 species of dragonflies and spiders.

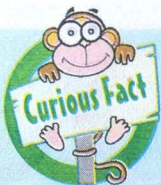
● *Dev Nath*



The park is the perfect place to see the elephant, gaur, chowsingha, mouse deer, and sloth bear. Other animals that can be spotted include the tiger, panther, sambar, spotted deer, barking

deer, blackbuck, common langur, and Malabar giant squirrel. The park is home to over 200 species of birds belonging to 48 families, including the rufous bellied hawk eagle. The reptile population in the Mudumalai National Park mainly consists of crocodiles and pythons. The common krait and bamboo pit snake are the other major reptiles in the park which also supports a variety of turtles, frogs, and amphibians. Did you know that 'Mudumalai' means 'situated on a first hill'?





Endangered Turtles

The sandy shores of the islands in the Gulf of Mannar attract five species of endangered marine turtles. These include the olive ridley turtle, hawksbill turtle, green turtle, leath-erback turtle, and loggerhead turtle.



*A Young Elephant Taking a Mudbath in
Corbett National Park*

Which is India's first national park?

The Corbett National Park is India's first national park. It was established in 1936. Its name was first changed to Ramganga, and later to Corbett National Park in honour of Jim Corbett, a legendary hunter turned conservationist.

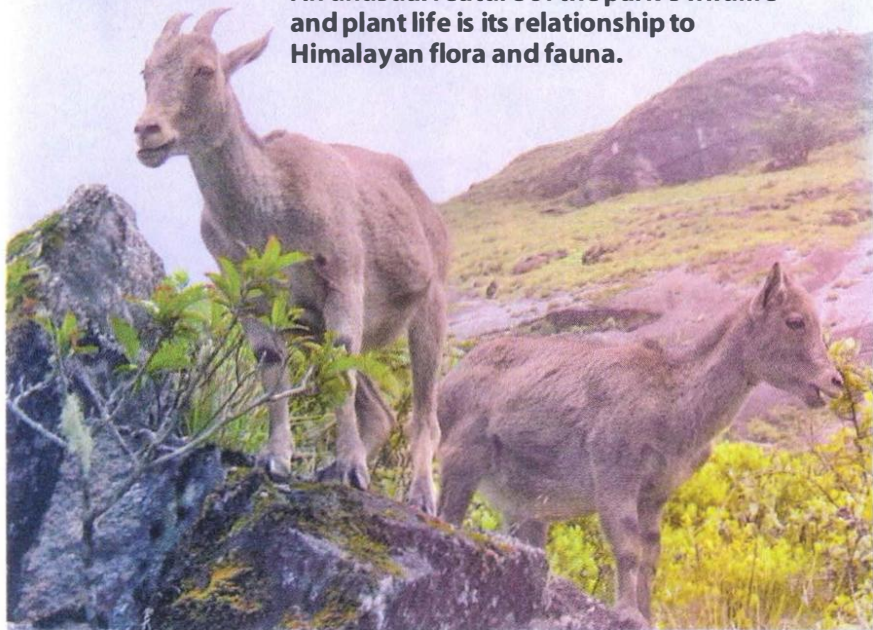
Corbett National Park is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas, in the newly created state of Uttarakhand, and is the core area of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Here you will find flat valleys, hilly ridges, and rolling grasslands that provide the perfect habitat for a rich eco-system.






Mukurthi National Park

The Mukurthi National Park lies in the Nilgiri Plateau of Tamil Nadu. It is famous for the Nilgiri tahr. It gets its name from a peak named Mukurthi inside the park. An unusual feature of the park's wildlife and plant life is its relationship to Himalayan flora and fauna.



More than 600 species of trees, shrubs, herbs, bamboos, grasses, climbers and ferns have been identified in the park. The Ramganga River is an important water source, along with its tributaries. The most famous of Corbett's wild residents are the Bengal tiger and the Asiatic elephant, but with about 600 species of birds too, the Corbett National Park is one of the richest bird regions of India.

Nilgiri Tahr

A photograph of a Green Turtle swimming over a vibrant coral reef. The turtle is positioned in the upper right, moving towards the left. Its head and front flippers are extended forward. The coral reef below is a mix of various colors including green, yellow, and orange, with a sandy bottom visible in some areas. The water is clear and blue.

Why is Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park a special place?

*Green Turtle
in Gulf of
Mannar
National Park*

The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park covers the coast of Rameswaram, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. The park, which is about 150 kms away from Madurai, is a part of the Indian Ocean, and lies between India and the west coast of Sri Lanka. It is one of the world's richest areas for marine biodiversity, and consists of 21 islands. The area has all the mangrove species available in India, and all the 11 sea-grasses of India are found here too. The abundance of sea-weeds and sea-grasses attract the endangered sea cow. Other marine creatures like dolphins, sea-horse, sea-cucumber and sea-anemone can also be seen here. The marine park has over 137 coral reef species that form the basis of an ecosystem where 3600 species of plants and animals flourish.

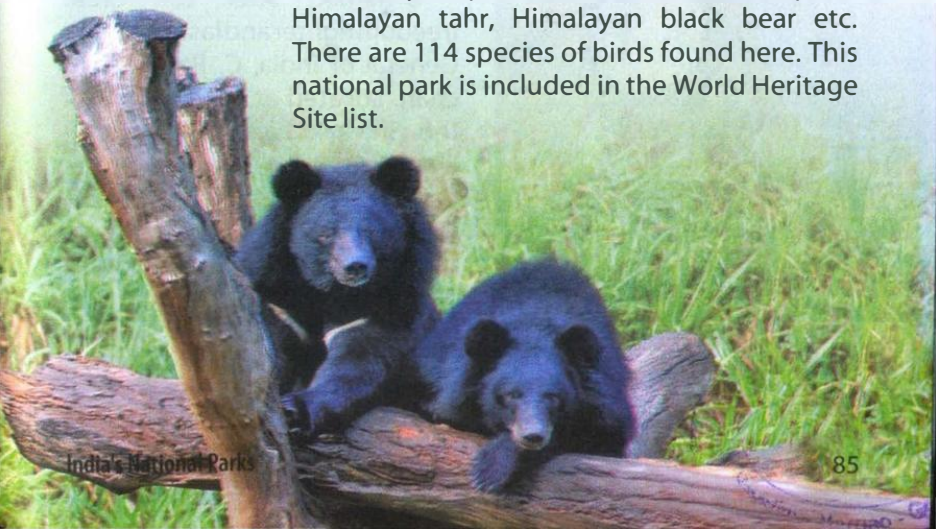


Why is the Nanda Devi National Park considered one of the most beautiful of national parks?

The Nanda Devi National Park is situated in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The entire park is overshadowed by Nanda Devi peak. The park is famed for its rugged wilderness and lies between the Eastern and Western Himalayas. The flora of the Nanda Devi National Park is supposed to be one of the richest preserves of the world.

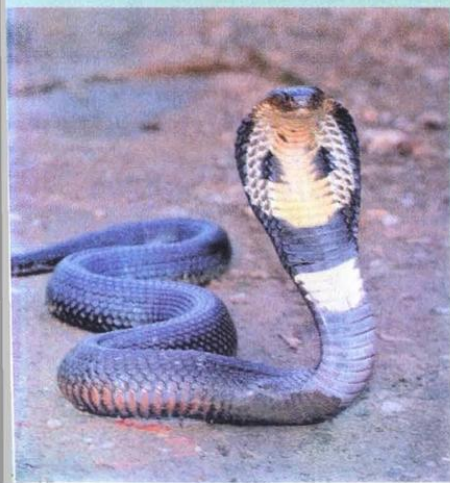
Himalayan Black Bear

The fauna of Nanda Devi National Park is rich in Himalayan species like serow, snow leopard, Himalayan tahr, Himalayan black bear etc. There are 114 species of birds found here. This national park is included in the World Heritage Site list.





Elephants



King Cobra

Whom is the Rajaji National Park named after?

The Rajaji National Park is named after the great freedomfighter and last Governor General of India, C. Rajagopalachari. Located at the foothills of the Shivalik Ranges in Uttarakhand, the park marks the beginning of the vast Indo-Gangetic Plain, and represents the vegetation of several zones and forests. Three sanctuaries in the Uttarakhand Shivaliks - Rajaji, Motichur and Chila were joined together to form this national

park in 1983. The majestic Ganges flows through the national park for a distance of 24 km, along with innumerable streams and brooks.

The park is important in that it marks the northernmost limit where the tiger, Asian elephant, king cobra, and certain species of birds can be found. The park has the largest population of elephants in Uttarakhand. It also has a good number of tigers and leopards. It possesses as many as 23 species of mammals and 315 bird species.

The most prominent avian species include pea fowl, woodpeckers, pheasants, kingfishers and barbets. Besides that, the rivers which flow through the park harbour fishes such as trout and the big mahseer.

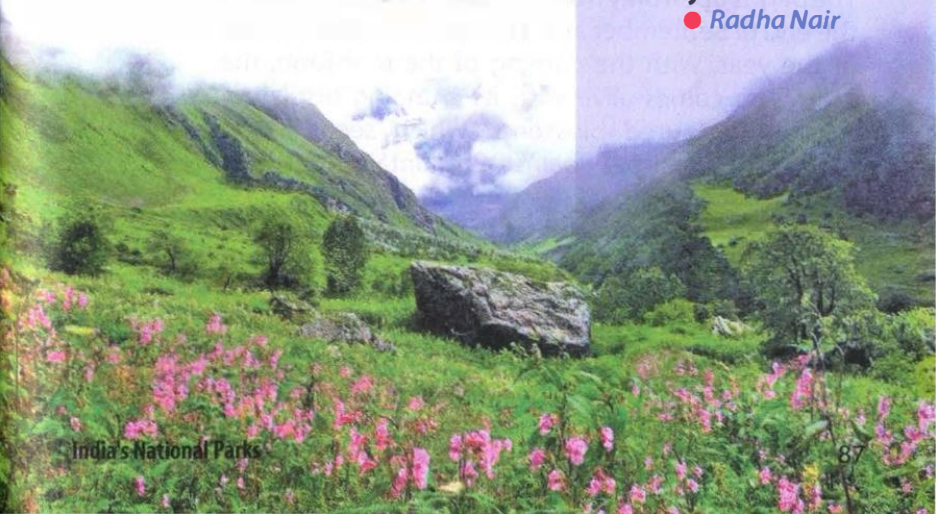
Valley of Flowers National Park



Discovery of the Valley

The Valley of Flowers was discovered by Frank Smith, a mountaineer, explorer, and botanist in the monsoon of 1931. The valley was given the status of a reserve in the year 1982, and today, is famous across the world for its magical beauty.

● *Radha Nair*





What do we know about the Valley of Flowers?

*Valley of
Flowers
National
Park*

The Valley of Flowers National Park is in Uttarakhand, bordered by Nepal and Tibet. It is a high-altitude Himalayan valley that has around 300 different varieties of alpine flowers.

The main Valley of Flowers is a glacial corridor, around five kilometres long, and two kilometres wide. The park is open only from the beginning of June until the end of September as it's covered in snow the rest of the year. With the coming of the monsoon, the valley too comes alive with its stunning display of riotously coloured blossoms, which seem like a brightly hued carpet against a mountainous, snow-capped background.

The abundance of Asmanda fern in this valley is a special feature. To reach the park requires a strenuous hike, but once you reach your destination, you'll feel on top of the world in this enchanting place. Is it any wonder then that the Valley of Flowers has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site?



Golden Eagle

Why was the Govind National Park established?

The Govind National Park in Uttarakhand was set up in 1990 to ensure long term protection and conservation of the elusive and endangered snow leopard. The park offers awesome views of the snow-capped mountains surrounding

it, and is a part of the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary. The entire area gets light to heavy snowfall, and is significant for being the major watershed of the Yamuna River. The area is also an important source of medicinal plants.



Brown Bear

The sanctuary has about 15 species of mammals, and 150 species of birds. The most significant of these animals are the Himalayan snow leopard, Himalayan black bear, brown bear, and serow. The endangered birds found in this region are monal pheasant, koklas pheasant, bearded vulture, Himalayan snow cock, golden eagle, Western tragopan, steppe eagle, and black eagle.

Why is the Gangotri National Park called 'breathtakingly beautiful'?

The Gangotri National Park is named after one of the most famous pilgrim sites in India, Gangotri. It is located in Uttarakhand, and forms a vital link in the green corridor between the Govind National Park and Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary. The park is breathtakingly beautiful with its dark green coniferous forests, lush green meadows, majestic glaciers and spectacular views of tumbling waterfalls. The vegetation consists of chir pine, deodar, fir, spruce, oak and rhododendrons. The vast area of the Park is home to 15 species of animals and 150 species of birds. Tourists can see snow leopards, brown bears, musk deer, thar, Himalayan barbets, tigers, serows, pheasants, partridges, koklass, bharals and Himalayan monals, as well as doves, pigeons, and parakeets here.

Gangotri



Wow,
a musk deer!

Don't go,
musk deer will
kick you dear!



Tell Me Why

Why is the Dudhwa National Park important?

Dudhwa National Park lies in Uttar Pradesh. It is tucked between India and Nepal, in the region referred to as 'the Terai belt'.

The Terai region is one of the most endangered ecosystems on the planet, and so, Dudhwa's importance lies in conserving this ecosystem. With its varied topography, lush green landscape and remarkable biodiversity, the reserve is an enviable paradise for nature lovers.

The park is the last refuge for the critically endangered sub-species of the swamp deer, called Barasingha. The grasslands are the natural habitat of Indian one-horned rhinoceros, which adds to the importance of this national park.





Hog Deer

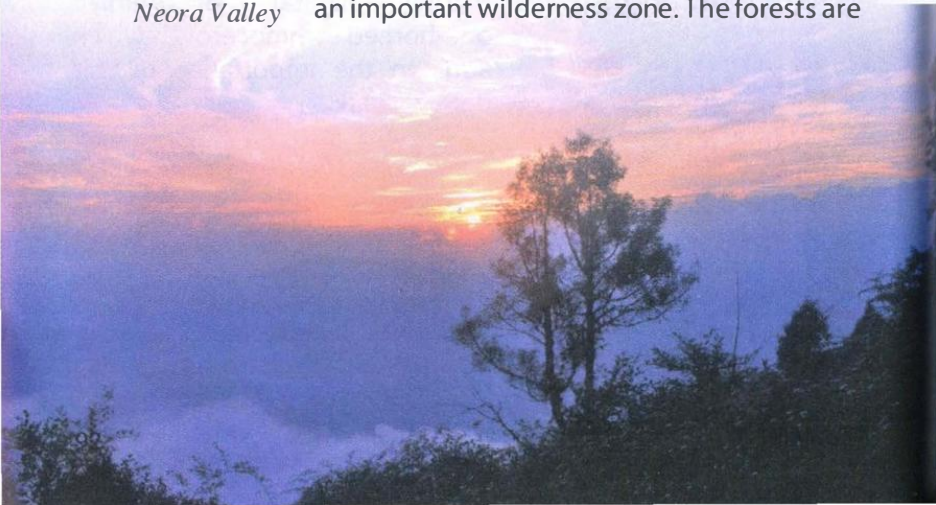
*Sunset in
Neora Valley*

Home of Deer

If you visit the Dudhwa National Park, you can see up to five species of deer. They are the swamp deer, sambar, the barking deer, spotted deer and hog deer. In fact, Dudhwa National Park has the distinction of being the only place in the world inhabited by five species of deer! There are only seven species of deer in the whole of India, so Dudhwa can rightly be called 'Home of the Deer.'

What makes the Neora Valley Park so special?

The Neora Valley National Park in West Bengal is one of the richest biological zones in North East India. It was declared as a national park in 1992. It is the land of the cute red panda, and its pristine undisturbed natural habitat, with rugged inaccessible hilly terrain and rich diverse flora and fauna make the park an important wilderness zone. The forests are



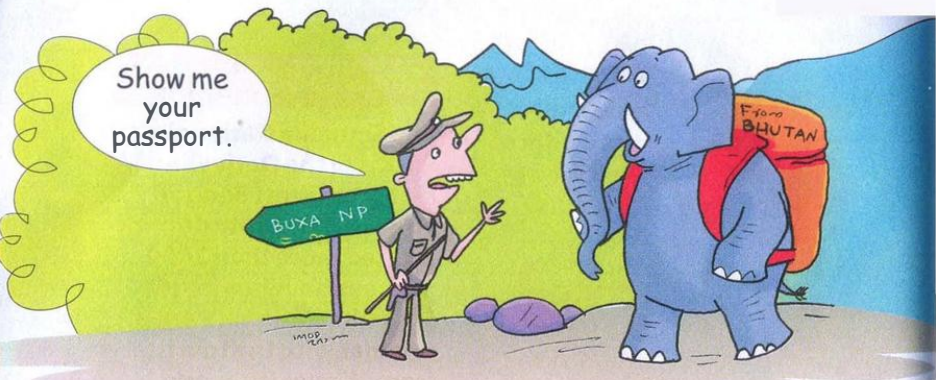
Singalila National Park

The Singalila National Park is in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. This is a high altitude park located more than 2000 metres above sea level. Singalila National Park is popular with the tourists from all over the world for its amazing flora and fauna, and the stunning view of the Himalayan peaks, including Everest and Kanchenjunga.

so thick and luxurious that sunlight rarely falls on the ground. Dense bamboo groves, spectacular rhododendron bushes, lush green valleys, exotic orchids, meandering rivers, and snow-capped mountains all combine to make this a nature lover's paradise.

The park harbours more than 31 species of mammals, which include the ever elusive red panda and clouded leopard. Other prime mammal species found in this park are wild dog, Himalayan black bear, leopard,

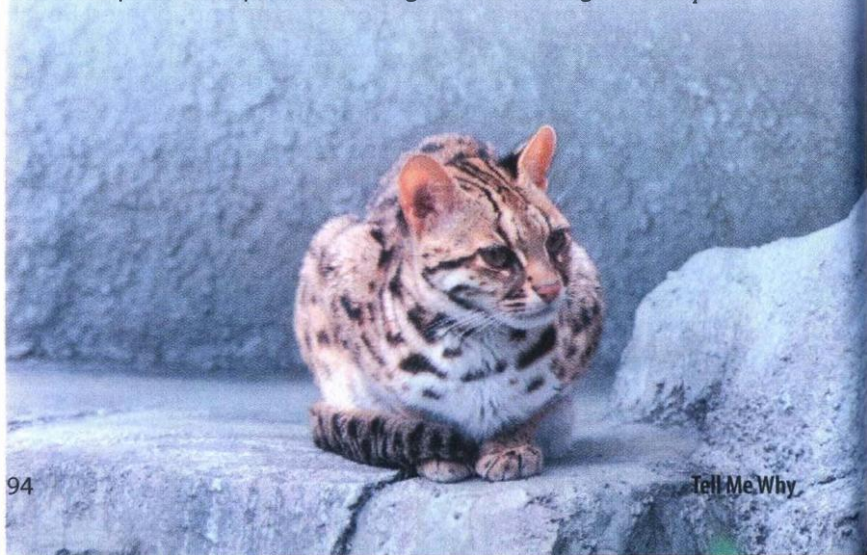
leopard cat, civet, wild boar, sambar, Himalayan thar, serow and ghoral. The park is also home to the endangered Royal Bengal tiger. Some of India's most sought-after birds are found in this park. Here one can see more than 300 species of feathered rarities like satyr tragopan, crimson-breasted woodpecker, darjeeling woodpecker, hodgson's hawk cuckoo, lesser cuckoo, brown wood owl, jerdon's baza, black eagle, mountain hawk eagle, and ashwood pigeon.



What are the features of the Buxa National Park?

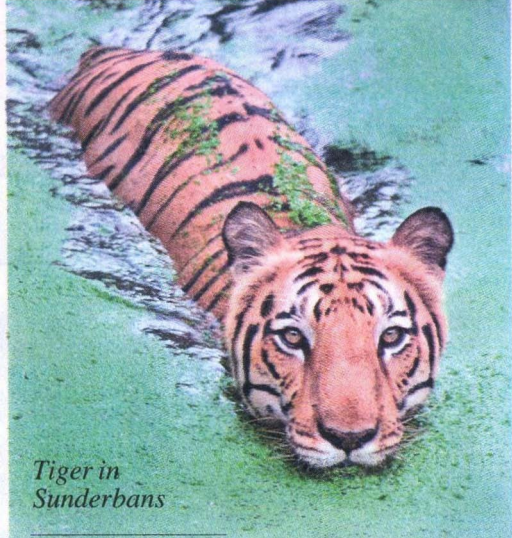
The Buxa National Park lies in West Bengal, along the border with Bhutan. Created in 1983 as the 15th tiger reserve of India, it also plays the role of an internal corridor that facilitates elephant migration between India and Bhutan. The reserve has more than 300 species of trees. It is also home to endangered species like the Indian tiger, Asian elephant, leopard cat, Bengal florican, regal

Leopard Cat



python, Chinese pangolin, hispid hare, and hog deer.

The plant life includes 250 species of shrubs, 400 species of herbs, 9 species of cane, 10 species of bamboo, 150 species of orchids, 100 species of grass and 130 species of aquatic flora. As regards the wildlife, 390 species of birds, 73 species of mammals, 76 species of snakes, and five species of amphibians have been identified so far. The historic Buxa Fort and a sacred temple - Mohakal - lies in the park too. In fact, the name 'Buxa Tiger Reserve' has been derived from Buxa Fort - an imposing structure that watches over the most important of the eleven land routes into Bhutan.



*Tiger in
Sunderbans*

Why is the Sunderbans National Park unique?

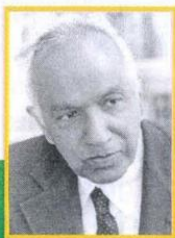
The Sunderbans Tiger Reserve and National Park lies in West Bengal, and is a part of the Sunderbans - the largest delta in the world. It consists of river channels, creeks, and islands which total about 102 in number.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Indian Sunderbans forms the largest tiger reserve and national park in India. The creeks and channels teem with a variety of fishes, red fiddler crabs and crocodiles.

Sunderbans National Park is also noted for its conservation of the Olive Ridley sea turtle. Besides a heronry, the Sajnekhali Visitors' Centre has a crocodile enclosure, a shark pond, a turtle hatchery, and a mangrove interpretation centre.

NEXT ISSUE

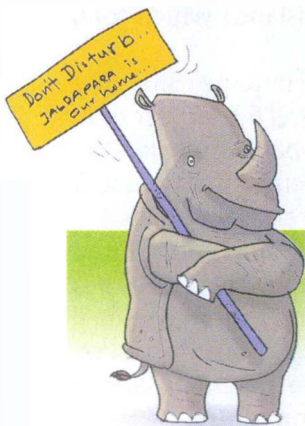
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What do we know about the Jaldapara National Park?



The Jaldapara National Park lies on the banks of the River Torsa. Located on the foothills of the Himalayas in West Bengal, it is a vast grassland with patches of forest. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1941 and a national park in 2012, and has the largest population of one-horned rhinos in the state. It houses more than 160 rhinos, apart from numerous bison, deer, leopards and six Bengal tigers.

Jaldapara is a paradise for birdwatchers. It is one of the very few places in India, where

Gorumara National Park

The Gorumara National Park in North West Bengal is a land of grasslands and forests that is famous for its population of the Indian Rhinoceros. In view of its great diversity of plants and animals it was declared as a National Park in 1998.

the Bengal florican is sighted. More than 240 species of birds including barbets, orioles, brahminy ducks, and whistling teals are found in a variety of habitats-grassland, waterbodies, woodland. There is scope for unusual holiday activities like elephant riding and leisurely strolls through the towering grass.

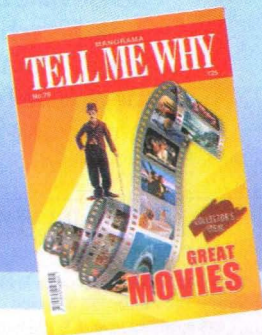
Clarifications & Corrections

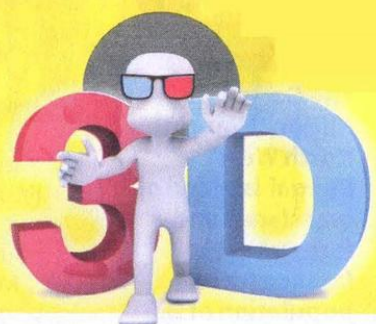
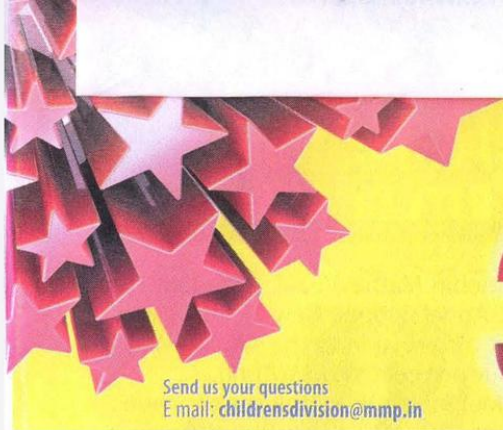
Mebin Mathew Paul, a student of Fr. Agnel School, New Delhi points out a correction to the Tell Me Why issue on Great Movies (April).

Mebin refers to the mention on page 78, that the Harry Potter movies were directed by Chris Columbus.

All the movies in the Harry Potter series were not directed by a single person. The first two parts, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' and 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' were directed by Chris Columbus. 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' was directed by Alfonso Cuaran, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' by Mike Newell and the last four instalments by David Yates.

Thank you Mebin for your valuable feedback. - Editor





Send us your questions
E mail: childrensdivision@mmp.in

I Wonder Why?

Question of the Month

Why is it said that multi-dimensional movies are different from normal movies?

The movies we see usually are two-dimensional (2-D). But there are also multi-dimensional movies that are made in three, four, five or six dimensions.

In a 3-D film, viewers are required to wear special glasses which will show as a three-dimensional image on the screen. But movies having more than three dimensions provide a different experience to the viewers. Special theatres are required to show these films, and viewers can experience them through other senses like odour, touch and sight. The seats to watch such movies are specially designed to create vibration, wave motion etc. There would be other effects, too, like smoke, water spraying etc., to give a multi-dimensional feel.

● *Alwin George*

MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - INDIA'S NATIONAL PARKS	
Editor: Ammu Mathew	Editor-in-Charge: A.V. Harisanker*
Printed and Published by V. Sajeer George, on behalf of M.M. Publications Ltd, P.B. No. 226, Kottayam - 686001 at M.M. Publications Ltd, P.B. No. 226, Kottayam - 686 001 and Malayala Manorama Press, Kottayam - 686 039 and published from M.M. Publications Ltd, P.B. No. 226, Kottayam - 686 001.	
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